Date:	Sat, 21 May 2022 1:00:55 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 21 May 2022 1:00:27 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg; image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg

Great that's why I put out my tweet thread immediately to get ahead of this and provide a sounder alternative narrative. Not let the whackos gain any momentum

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

On May 21, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:53 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'David Morens' < [b6] 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Roberts, Rich b6; David Morens < b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Aleksei Chmura b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Subject: Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005089
MORENS_NIH_012980
REL0000479105

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

From: Peter Daszak < b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 >; David Morens < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005090
MORENS_NIH_012981
REL0000479105

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6; Roberts, Rich <b6>; David Morens <
b6 n >; Keusch, Gerald T <b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6 9
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak <b6 wrote:

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005092
MORENS_NIH_012983
REL0000479105

Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'David Morens' b6 eusch, Gerald T' <
b6 'Aleksei Chmura' b6 >
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

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

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

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

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

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.
- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that "*EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005093
MORENS_NIH_012984
REL0000479105

collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.

- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.
- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations.

That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005095
MORENS_NIH_012986
REL0000479105

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

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < b6
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 David Morens' b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

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

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, R[b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

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

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

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

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6 u
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skyp b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < b6 Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005099
MORENS_NIH_012990
REL0000479105

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

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

Peter:

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

Thanks

Rich

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005100
MORENS_NIH_012991
REL0000479105

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: **p.hotez**
Linkedin b6

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

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

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:
>
> What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.
>
> I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:
>
> - "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005102
MORENS_NIH_012993
REL0000479105

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

> "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!
>
> "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.
>
> "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.
>
> "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005103
MORENS_NIH_012994
REL0000479105

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

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

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

---

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

How could PNAS publish this crap?

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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

iPhone

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

Peter:

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) 380-7405
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: roberts@neb.com

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005105
MORENS_NIH_012996
REL0000479105

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

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

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

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

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



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

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005106
MORENS_NIH_012997
REL0000479105

detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

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

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

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

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part

of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

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

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

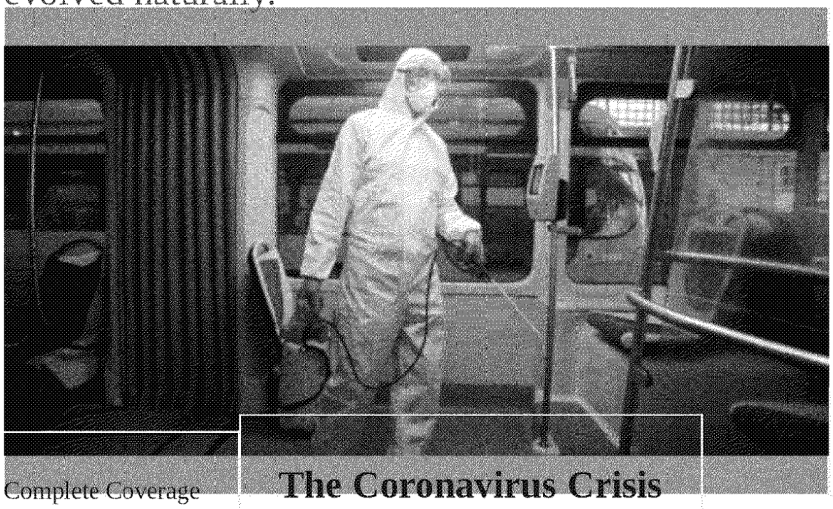
Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview,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

A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat

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

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

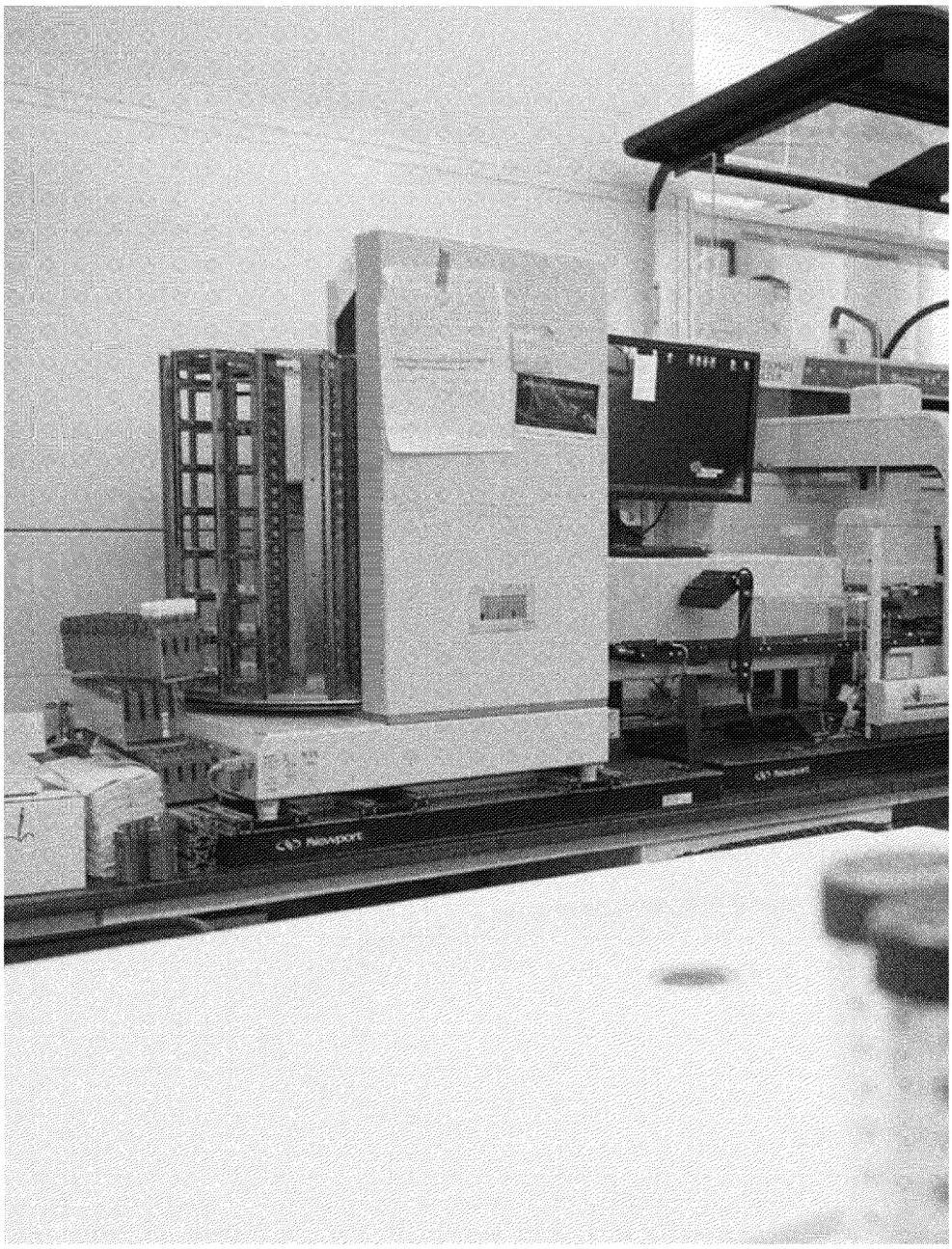


Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005109
MORENS_NIH_013000
REL0000479105

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005110
MORENS_NIH_013001
REL0000479105

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

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

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

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

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005111
MORENS_NIH_013002
REL0000479105

"The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

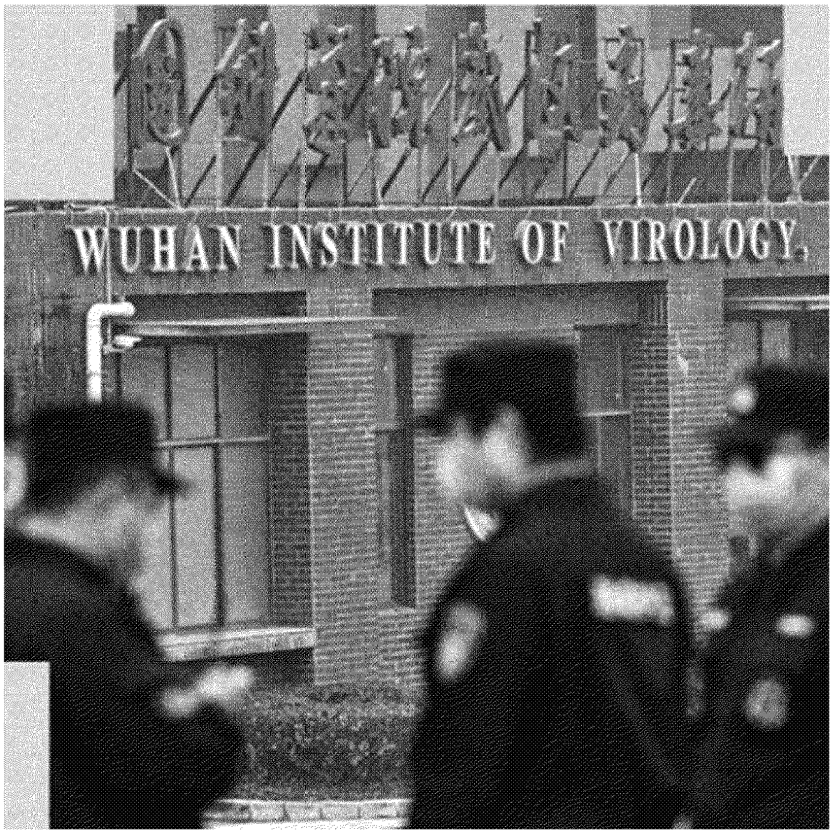
"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005112
MORENS_NIH_013003
REL0000479105



Related

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

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

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was

a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

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



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005114
MORENS_NIH_013005
REL0000479105

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005115
MORENS_NIH_013006
REL0000479105

journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

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

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

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

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

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The

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

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

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

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

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

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact

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

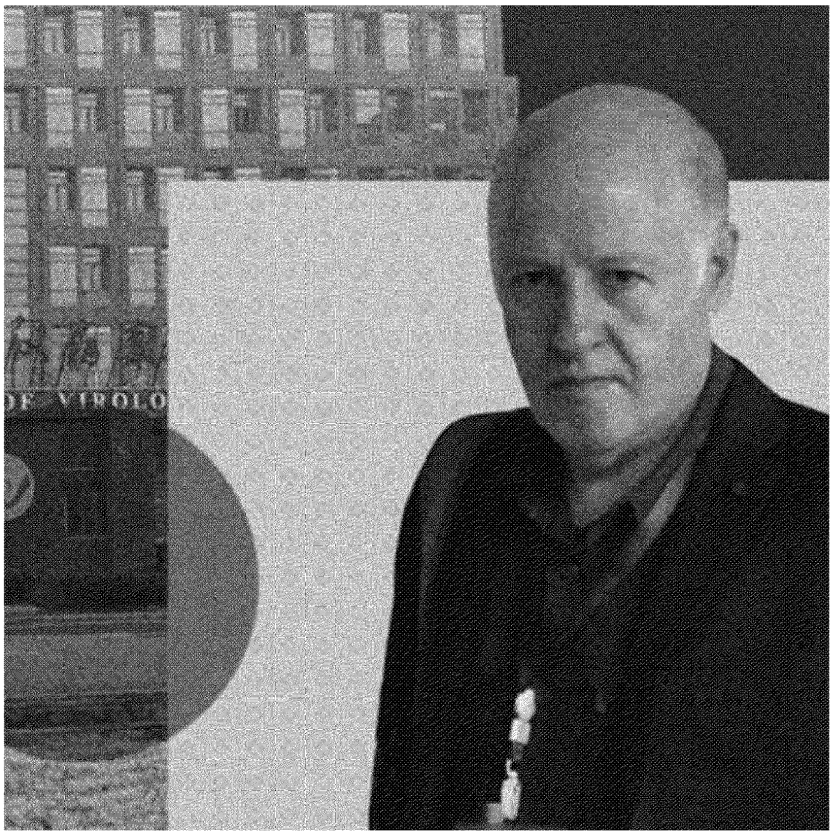


Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005119
MORENS_NIH_013010
REL0000479105

2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005120
MORENS_NIH_013011
REL0000479105

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

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

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

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

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

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

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

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

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak < b6 > wrote:

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

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

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

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

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

From: Myles, Renate (NIH
To: Carl Zimmer; Woitc
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH
Subject: RE: FW: Query fror
Date: Wednesday, June 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting tha
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't d
I know that Dr. Bloom is making
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM condu
packages were withdrawn upor
included one requested by the
the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005123
MORENS_NIH_013014
REL0000479105

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** b6
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005124
MORENS_NIH_013015
REL0000479105

Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens <b6>
<b6>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg<b6>>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

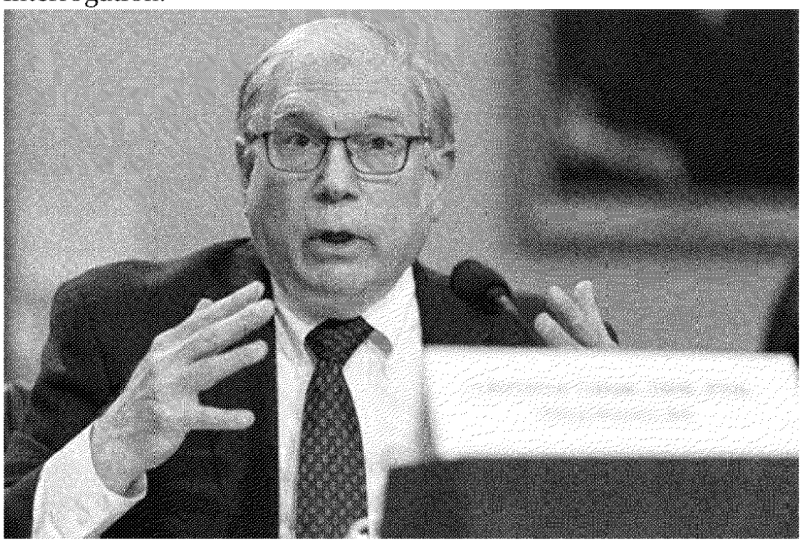
NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of

Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."
Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.
"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP
"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.
"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."
"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.
"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.
"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.
"That's correct," he said.
"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.
"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a

tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



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

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

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

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository. When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci. Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

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



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



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

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

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other

intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

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

Date: Thu, 6 May 2021 11:34:15 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 6 May 2021 11:29:31 PM -0400
Subject: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6
Attachments: House E&C Comm. Republ. Letter to Blinken re. WIV b6

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

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

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

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

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; 'Roberts, Rich' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6 'Robert Kessler (

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014510
MORENS_NIH_027274
REL0000479107

b6

Subject: New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
Importance: High

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014511
MORENS_NIH_027275
REL0000479107

Date: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 5:36:12 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ [redacted]

To: [redacted]

CC: [redacted]

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: [redacted] At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
To: [redacted]

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , [redacted]

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 [redacted] 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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009483
MORENS_NIH_019976
REL0000479108

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 [b6]

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 4:09:49 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 4:09:48 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

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 b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:33 PM
To: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Hi:

If I am to do something I would talk to Harold first. I'll see what he has to say as a possible path forward.

Rich

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

From: David Morens < b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 Robert Kessler < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013994
MORENS_NIH_026543
REL0000479109

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

On Apr 21, 2021, at 15:01, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6] Robert Kessler < [b6] ; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013995
MORENS_NIH_026544
REL0000479109

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 [b6] 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:41 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Rich Roberts < [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura < [b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013996
MORENS_NIH_026545
REL0000479109

outreach to Democrats, which I believe people will be doing.

I've also put in a link to the new " Covid Commission Planning Group (Covid CPG)" that has no official role from USG, but boldly states as its core mission "to prepare the way for a National Covid Commission". Members include David Relman & Marc Lipsitch and I have heard from many on the conspiracy theory chatter networks online that this will focus partly on advocating for reduction in biosafety labs, viral work in wildlife, and gain-of-function.

Please feel free to share any docs that I've sent to you, with Tony. Hopefully you can do that in a way that avoids FoIA, and if not possible, just show him stuff on screen share on Zoom.

Please also see comments below...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Gerald Keusch <keusch@bu.edu>; Rich Roberts b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 g >; Aleksei Chmura b6 g >
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013997
MORENS_NIH_026546
REL0000479109

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share
[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get the hellhounds of your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony, personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid
[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about 10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman, who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better
[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.
[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who's working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their "Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. 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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013998
MORENS_NIH_026547
REL0000479109

including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch it?
[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission (and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one. They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that Tony not have anything on the record that could come back to bite
[Peter Daszak:] Totally agree. Tell him I'm happy to speak with him at any time and will do so in a way that's not FoIA-ble. One thing I could do is either on a zoom call or by sending you a document, is lay out responses to the Mendendez questions so that the arguments are known and well-supported. For example, everyone's saying that this is a 'gain-of-function' issue, but actually that's not the case - we worked on bat viruses, not human pathogens. The expts produced loss of function, not gain of function, all appropriate conditions and approvals were demonstrably checked and correctly answered.

Finally, i didn't read all of the Menendez bill-in-committee, which is longer than Les misérables, but what's the gist? Do you think that in their zeal to take a hard stance against the PRC, these Democrats are purposely, or accidentally, getting sucked into the evil-WIV scenario? Is there real danger here?
[Peter Daszak:] The Menendez bill is the only one that stands a chance so far of becoming law because it's bipartisan. The WIV, gain-of-function stuff is thrown in as a very small part of it. The draft wording only calls for a report from NIH after 180 days on these issues, and they are easily addressed. However, if it does pass and the anti-China mood hardens in the US, it may end up with calls to testify and the Republicans may use that to undermine NIH, and in particular Tony, given the rabid GoF myth they've been building.

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013999
MORENS_NIH_026548
REL0000479109

Disclaimer

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

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

Date:	Mon, 17 Oct 2022 6:46:08 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 17 Oct 2022 6:45:57 PM -0400
Subject:	Daily Mail article criticizing Boston Univ & NEIDL: "Outrage as Boston University CREATES Covid strain with 80% kill rate"
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg

Just sharing this piece of hyped up reporting. The study is quite interesting actually and tells us something new – that the key to SARS-CoV-2 pathogenicity is not always in the spike protein.

Here's the piece:
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article- 11323677/Outrage- Boston-University- CREATES- Covid-strain-80-kill-rate.html

EXCLUSIVE: 'This is playing with fire - it could spark a lab-generated pandemic': Experts slam Boston lab where scientists have created a new deadly Covid strain with an 80% kill rate

- **Researchers added Omicron's spike protein to the original Wuhan Covid strain**
- **Omicron's spike is highly mutated which made it the most infectious variant ever**
- **Eight in 10 mice infected with the lab-created strain died at Boston University lab**

By CAITLIN TILLEY, HEALTH REPORTER FOR DAILYMAIL.COM and MANSUR SHAHEEN DEPUTY HEALTH EDITOR FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 11:02 EDT, 17 October 2022 | **UPDATED:** 17:41 EDT, 17 October 2022

Boston University scientists were today condemned for 'playing with fire' after it emerged they had created a lethal new Covid strain in a laboratory.

DailyMail.com revealed the team had made a hybrid virus — combining Omicron and the original Wuhan strain — that killed 80 per cent of mice in a study.

The revelation exposes how dangerous virus manipulation research continues to go on even in the US, despite fears similar practices may have started the pandemic.

ADVERTISEMENT

Professor Shmuel Shapira, a leading scientist in the Israeli Government, said: 'This should be totally forbidden, it's playing with fire.'

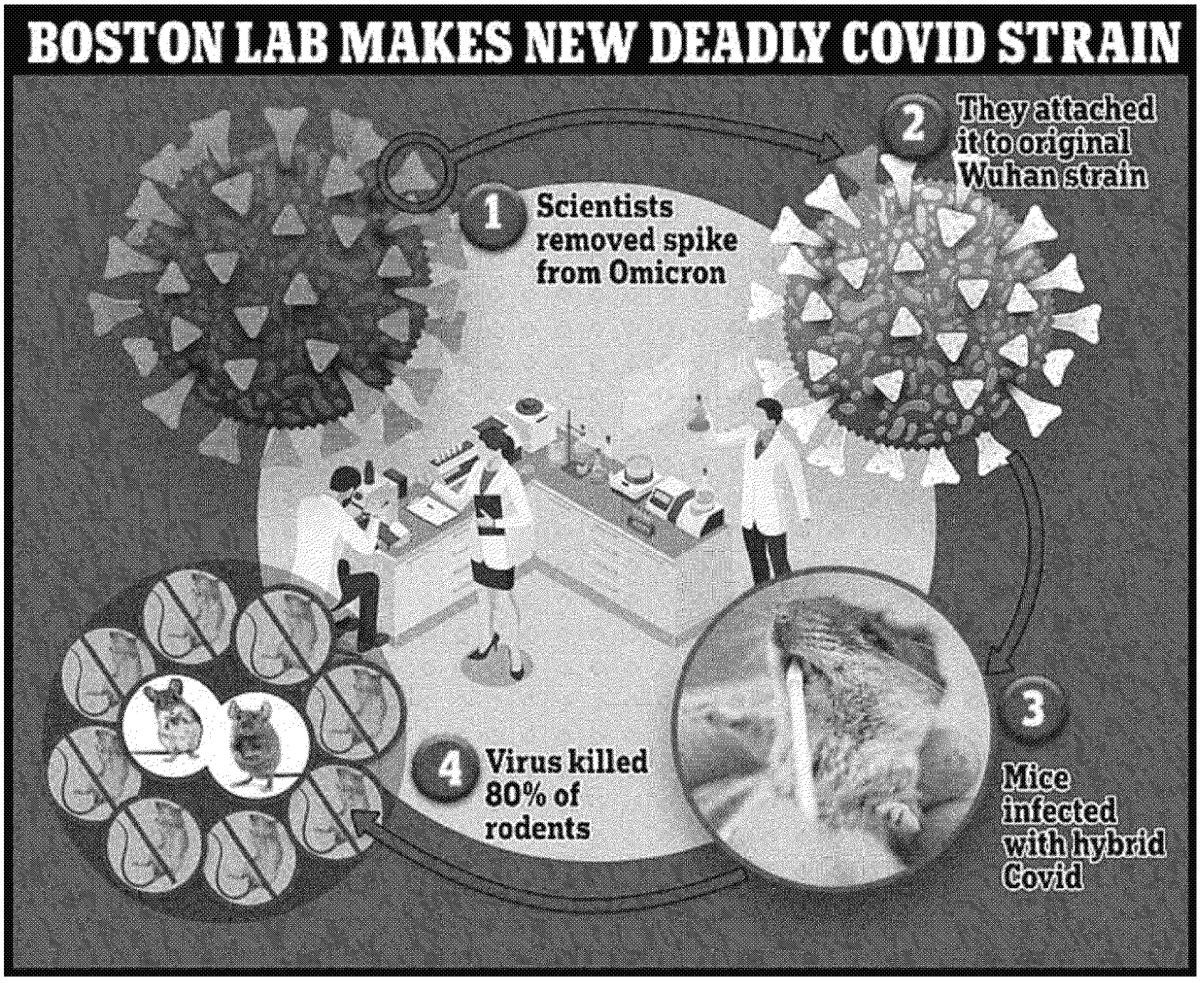
Gain of function research - when viruses are purposefully manipulated to be more infectious or deadly - is thought to be at the center of Covid's origin.

A Chinese laboratory located just miles from the first cluster of cases carried out similar research on bat coronaviruses.

But the practice has been largely restricted in the US since 2017.

Dr Richard Ebright, a chemist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, told DailyMail.com that: 'The research is a clear example of gain of function research.

He added: 'If we are to avoid a next lab-generated pandemic, it is imperative that oversight of enhanced potential pandemic pathogen research be strengthened.'



+11

View gallery

In the new research , which has not been peer-reviewed, a team of researchers from Boston and Florida extracted Omicron's spike protein — the unique structure that binds to and invades human cells. It has always been present but it has become more evolved over time. Omicron has dozens of mutations in its spike protein that made it so infectious. Researchers attached Omicron's spike protein to the original wildtype strain that first emerged in Wuhan at the start of the pandemic. The researchers looked at how mice fared under the new hybrid strain compared to the original Omicron variant

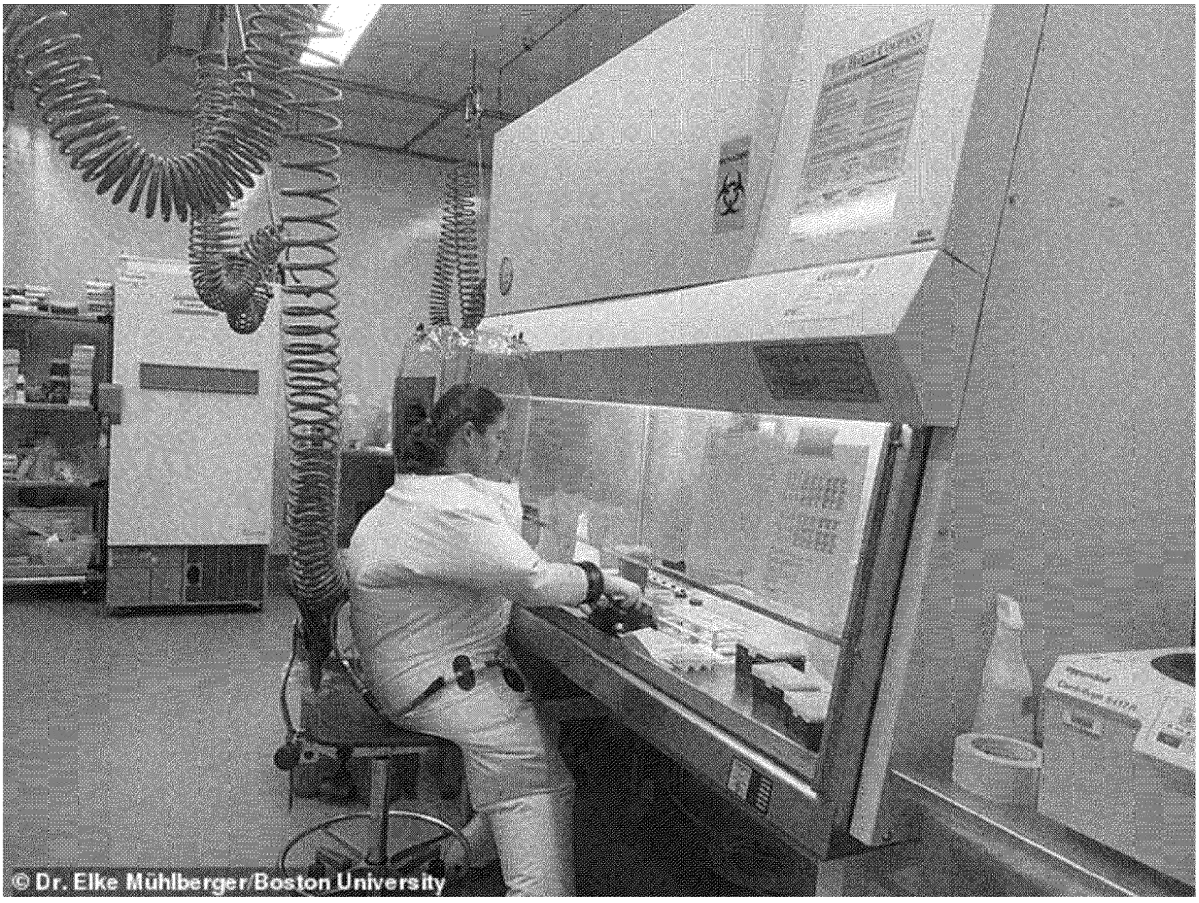


+11

View gallery

Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories is one of 13 biosafety level 4 labs in the US

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001789
MORENS_NIH_008197
REL0000479118



+11

View gallery

●

The most dangerous type of research can be carried out in these labs, involving highly infectious viruses such as Covid and Ebola

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001790
MORENS_NIH_008198
REL0000479118



+11

View gallery

●

In biosafety 4 labs, researchers do all experiments in a 'biosafety cabinet' — an enclosed, ventilated workspace for handling materials contaminated with pathogens

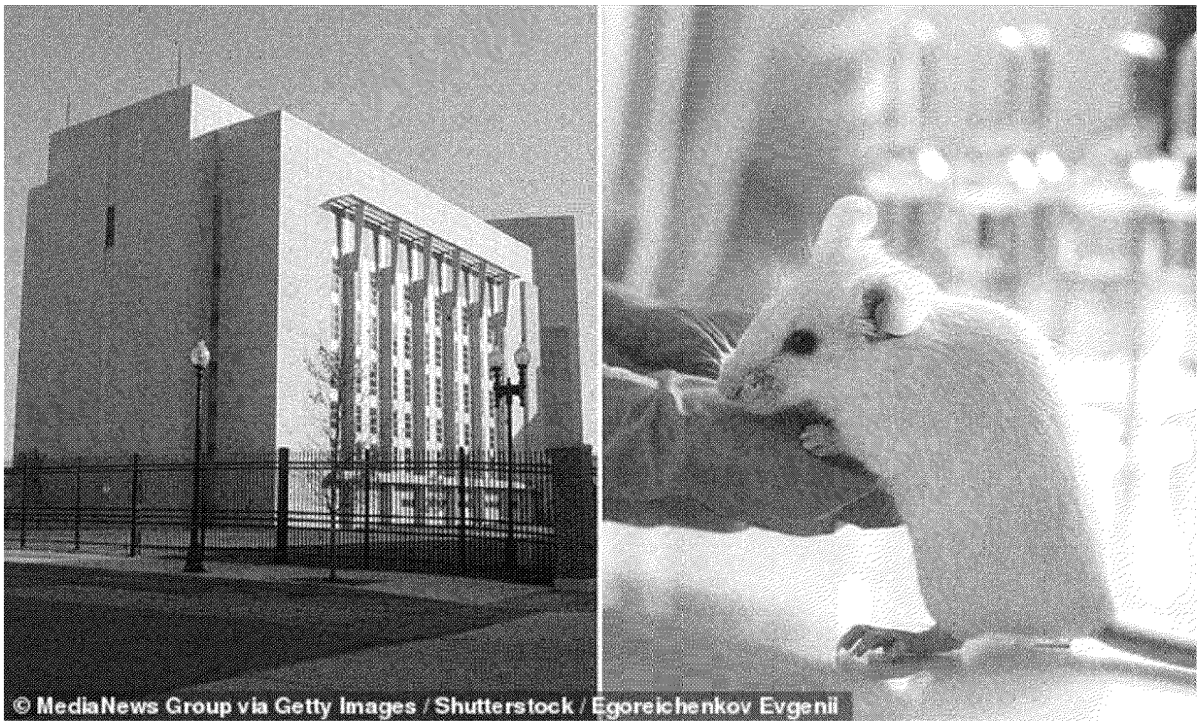


+11

View gallery

●

Full-body, air-supplied pressure suits are worn and workers must change their clothing before entering and shower before leaving

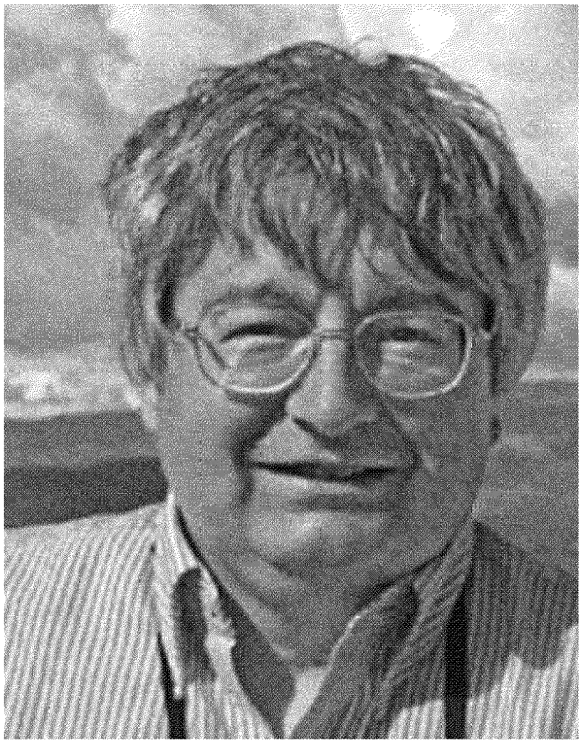


+11

View gallery

●

80 percent of mice died from the new man-made Covid strain, while none died from the milder Omicron variant alone, researchers at Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories found



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001792
MORENS_NIH_008200
REL0000479118

+11

View gallery



+11

View gallery

Dr Richard Ebright (left), a Rutgers University chemist, said that this research could spark the next lab-created pandemic. Professor Shmuel Shapira (right), a leading scientist in the Israeli Government, said that this type of research should be banned as it is playing with fire.

In the new research, which has not been peer-reviewed, a team of researchers from Boston and Florida extracted Omicron's spike protein — the unique structure that binds to and invades human cells.

It has always been present in the virus but has become more evolved over time. Omicron has dozens of mutations on its spike protein that made it so infectious.

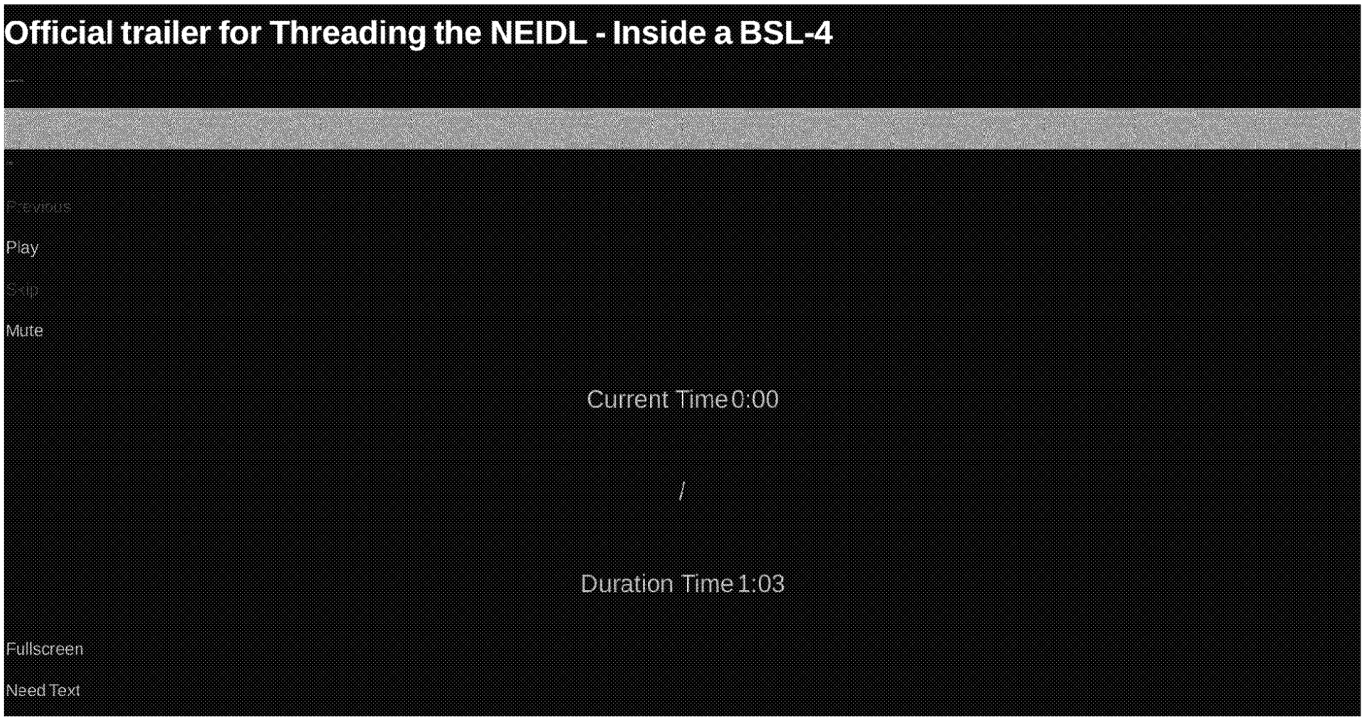
Researchers attached Omicron's spike to the original wildtype strain that first emerged in Wuhan at the start of the pandemic.

The researchers looked at how mice fared against the new hybrid strain compared to the original Omicron variant.

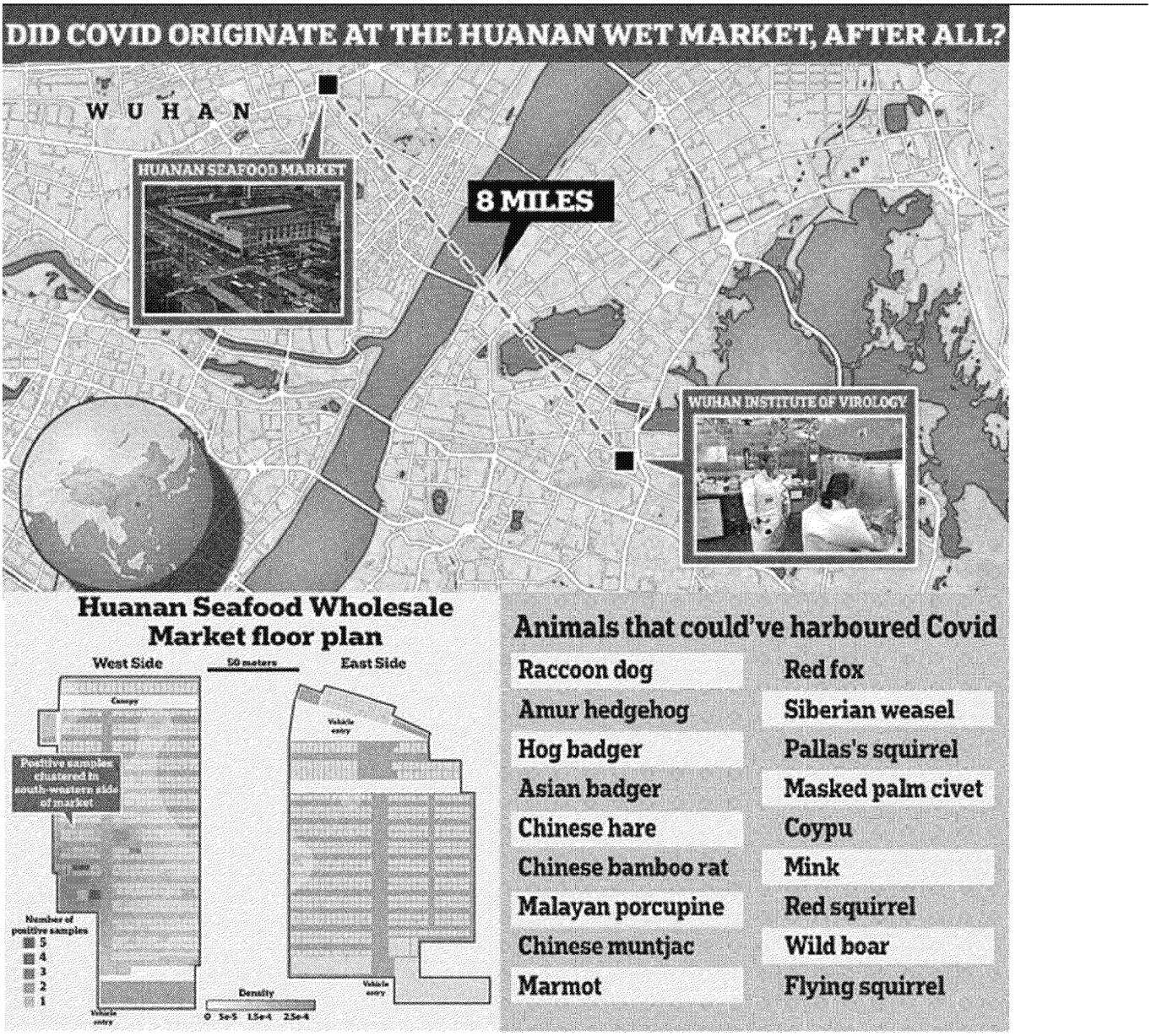
When a similar group of rodents were exposed to the standard Omicron strain, however, they all survived and only experienced 'mild' symptoms.

Writing in the paper, they said: 'In...mice, while Omicron causes mild, non-fatal infection, the Omicron S-carrying virus inflicts severe disease with a mortality rate of 80 percent.'

The researchers said it signaled that while the spike protein is responsible for infectivity, changes to other parts of its structure determine its deadliness.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001794
MORENS_NIH_008202
REL0000479118



+11

View gallery

●

The question of whether the global outbreak began with a spillover from wildlife sold at the market or leaked out of the Wuhan lab just eight miles across the Yangtze River has given rise to fierce debate about how to prevent the next pandemic. New studies point to a natural spillover at the Huanan wildlife market. Positive swab samples of floors, cages and counters also track the virus back to stalls in the southwestern corner of the market (bottom left), where animals with the potential to harbor Covid were sold for meat or fur at the time (bottom right)



+11

View gallery

Pictured: The Wuhan Institute of Virology, where crucial data was wiped by Chinese scientists

Dr Ebright told DailyMail.com: 'The research is a clear example of gain of function research of concern and enhanced potential pandemic pathogen (ePPP) research.

'It is especially concerning that this new US-government ePPP research - like the previous US-government ePPP research on chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses at Wuhan Institute of Virology that may have caused the pandemic - appears not to have undergone the prior risk-benefit review mandated under US-government policies.

'If we are to avoid a next lab-generated pandemic, it is imperative that oversight of ePPP research be strengthened.

'It is imperative that the existing polices mandating prior risk-benefit assessment of ePPP research be followed, and it is imperative that officials at US-government agencies who repeatedly have placed the public at risk by repeatedly violating the existing policies be held accountable.'

Prof David Livermore, a professor of microbiology at the UK's University of East Anglia told DailyMail.com: 'given the strong likelihood that the Covid pandemic originated from the escape of a lab-manipulated coronavirus in Wuhan, these experiments seem profoundly unwise.'

Have we learned nothing? 40 new biochemical labs that handle

dangerous viruses are being built around the world

The **Coronavirus** pandemic has prompted a global surge in laboratories that handle dangerous viruses — despite concerns Covid may have been the result of the risky experiments.
More than 40 facilities certified as biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) or BSL-4 have either been built or have gone into construction since 2020, predominantly across **Asia**.
Many countries believe they were caught flat-footed by Covid and want to get ahead of the next devastating outbreak by studying pathogens that pose a threat to humans.

Experiments at these labs often involve tinkering with animal viruses to advance treatments and vaccines that could be used in a future outbreak.

But there are widespread concerns that these experiments might actually raise the risk of pandemics — something some experts believe was the case with Covid.

The virus first began spreading from a wet market in Wuhan, about eight miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), a high security biolab that worked with dangerous bat coronaviruses.

Scientists there worked on some of Covid's closest relatives. They were also found to have wiped crucial databases and stifled independent investigations into the laboratory's links to the pandemic.

Professor Paul Hunter, an expert in infection diseases at the University of East Anglia in England, told DailyMail.com he was concerned about what all the new labs would be used for.

'The issue is what you're going to be using [the labs] for,' he told this website. 'If they're for diagnostic purposes, then you need them. But I don't think every country needs a BSL-4.'

He added: 'If they start having a dual purpose for research that has offensive military implications, that is the concern.'

Russia has set out its proposals for 15 of the maximum security labs and India is aiming for 18 BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs in total. The US is also adding a further highest level biosecurity lab to its existing 12.

Gain of function research was largely restricted in the US until 2017, when the National Institutes of Health began to allow it to take place using government funds.

Previously it had been halted from 2014 to 2017 over concerns that it could lead to the inadvertent creation of a pandemic.

The research involves tinkering with viruses to make them more lethal or infectious - with the hopes of getting ahead of a future outbreak.

While Covid is officially believed to have been transmitted from an animal to a human - likely from a bat - in a Wuhan wet market, some speculate otherwise.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) was performing gain of function research on similar strains before the virus emerged in the city.

Some believe that the pathogen being developed in the lab infected employees, and escaped into the world as a result.

The Boston scientists were performing similar research, and looked at different strains' effect on

human lung cells that were grown in the lab.

Covid latches onto human cells with its spike protein, and instructs healthy cells to produce copies of itself.

Scientists measured how many copies each variant caused the health cells to produce.

They found the hybrid strain produced five times more viral particles than the original Omicron.

The scientists admit the hybrid virus is unlikely to be as deadly in humans as it was in mice.

This is because the specific breed of lab mice used are very susceptible to severe Covid disease. Mice and humans also have very different immune responses to the virus.

The lab, at Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, is one of 13 biosafety level 4 labs in the US.

These are labs that are authorized to handle the most dangerous pathogens. There are also facilities in Texas, Atlanta and Manhattan, Kansas.

Experiments at these labs often involve tinkering with animal viruses to advance treatments and vaccines that could be used in a future outbreak.

Work on the live virus that causes Covid must be carried out at a BSL-3 or BSL-4 lab.

In BSL-3 labs, researchers do all experiments in a 'biosafety cabinet' — an enclosed, ventilated workspace for handling materials contaminated with pathogens.

The labs also have self-closing doors, sealed windows, floors and walls, and filtered ventilation systems.

In a BSL-4 lab, full-body, air-supplied pressure suits are worn and workers must change their clothing before entering and shower before leaving.

The lab is situated in a separate section of the building and has its own dedicated air supply.

There have long been speculation about the true origins of the virus that took over the world in early 2020.

Officially, it is believed that the virus was transmitted from a bat or similar animal to a human in Wuhan, before spreading among people.

Some believe that the virus could be man-made - with explanations ranging from the accidental to the nefarious.

The 'lab leak' Covid theory alleges that the virus was created via gain of function research being undertaken at the WIV.

It is feared that the virus being developed managed to infect an employee and then escape into the real world from there.

The theory for Covid was initially dismissed as conspiracy at the start of the pandemic in favor of a natural emergence.

But the hypothesis gained momentum following a series of revelations and cover-ups.

Crucial information about the earliest infected patients was wiped from the Wuhan lab's database in late 2019 and one of its staff vanished after coming down with a mysterious flu-like illness.

Fierce debate about the origins of the Covid pandemic was reignited after two studies claimed to trace the outbreak back to a notorious animal slaughter market in Wuhan.

One shows for the first time how the earliest human cases were clustered within a small radius around the Huanan Seafood Market in winter 2019.

More precise analysis of swabs taken from floors, cages and counters track the virus back to stalls in the southwestern corner of the market, where animals that can harbor Covid were sold for meat or fur at the time.

A second study claims to have pinpointed the exact date the first animal-to-human infection occurred — November 18, 2019 — after carrying out genetic analysis on hundreds of samples from the first human carriers.

They also say they have found evidence another first generation strain was spreading at the wet market — which, if true, would place both original lineages within its walls.

Until recently, the only Covid cases linked to the market were Lineage B, which was thought to have evolved after Lineage A.

Proponents of the accidental lab leak hypothesis used this as proof the virus only arrived at the market after evolving elsewhere in Wuhan.

ADVERTISEMENT

Read more:

- www.biorxiv.org/...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio < [b6]
Subject: RE: another awful Sachs youtube video

Peter:

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

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio < [b6]
Subject: another awful Sachs youtube video

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

It's delusional and pretty offensive, frankly.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:28 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' < b6 ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; 'Jeff Sturchio' < b6 >
Subject: A barrage of attacks against EHA in last week
Importance: High

I don't know if you're seeing any of the bad press we've been getting in the last few days, but it's been a rollercoaster week for us here.

On the one hand, NIH has finally reversed the suspension of our China R01! We're currently renegotiating the terms, albeit without the capacity to collaborate with the WIV. We also got the notice of award on a new R01 to work in Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to conduct human sampling in communities and clinics, and sampling of bats to identify the risk factors and degree of bat-CoV spillover in the region. Both are great news for us, but as soon as NIH put this on their public website, the harassment started.

We've now had articles in the Daily Mail, US Right to Know, The Intercept, https://theintercept.com/2022/10/04/ecohealth- alliance-lab-leak-nih-grant/?utm_source=twitter &utm_medium=social &utm_campaign=theintercept

.. and just now in the Financial Times criticizing the govt for funding us.
https://www.ft.com/content/5504ad3a- eef2-49eb-b8dc-2a417d6f711c

One particularly hurtful quote in the FT is from Andrew Weber, who we previously had as a speaker at one of EcoHealth's Cosmos Club events in DC:
"Andrew Weber, who was assistant secretary of defence in the Obama administration and is now a senior fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, called the work **'reckless, risky research with virtually no benefit to humanity'**". I get it that he has a political agenda, but surely anyone with half a brain can see that there's a benefit to finding out what viruses are spilling over from wildlife into people, particularly when they belong to the same viral clade as the one that caused SARS and COVID, and are infecting 60,000 people a year in SE Asia. What small minded person would allow politics to cloud their logic so blatantly.

We've also got Sen. Joni Ernst filing a bill to defund EcoHealth of all federal funding, and letters back and forth from the usual suspects (Republican members of Congress and Senators) attacking us with wild accusations of coverups and nefarious behavior.

Add to that a GAO request for a pile of documents (because Republicans asked them), and our first subpoena for documents. These last two mean weeks of work digging through emails, files and records, all for naught…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001801
MORENS_NIH_008209
REL0000479118

..and finally a disingenuous letter to NIH and CDC that cites a pile of BS about EcoHealth as an excuse to get CDC and NIH to review biosafety of field programs that work with wildlife – part of a growing anti-science luddism that threatens to close down our work and many others: https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republicans-press-nih-and-cdc-over-safety-gaps-with-virus-hunting-to-prevent-next-pandemic/

Looks like we're in for a rough road ahead…

One silver lining – the Honorable Dr. Fauci defending NIH's decision to fund our new R01 in a podcast: https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1577400180067995659/pu/vid/1284x720/KIyqU6NOK7zjvYio.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

Jerry et al.

I am at a meeting in Japan and have been talking with Joe Stiglitz and b6 who knows Jeff well b6 he is having mental problems. I will be meeting with them later today and this is one of several items we will discuss.

Rich

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001802
MORENS_NIH_008210
REL0000479118

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:18 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just got word this afternoon from PNAS that it will appear as early as next Monday, October 10, and that the embargo ends that afternoon, although it may actually appear in any issue next week. Seems a bit strange to me, but the key is its no longer embargoed and will be in the journal next week.

That's an interesting suggestion Peter to compile a packet of key papers. The two questions are which papers, and what do we do with the packet?
As far as Jeff Sachs is concerned nothing surprises me any more. To his credit, he didn't accuse aliens working for the US Space Force of doing – maybe that's the next interview.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

I saw the Garry rebuttal paper in PNAS which I thought was excellent. What about your paper Jerry? Should all these papers be put together in a packet?

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

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

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

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On Oct 3, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

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

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7- .mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch b6; Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; Peter Hotez b6; Rich Roberts b6; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
> **Date:** October 3, 2022 at 06:42:51 EDT
> **To:** David Morens b6
> **Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
>
> Sent from my iPhone

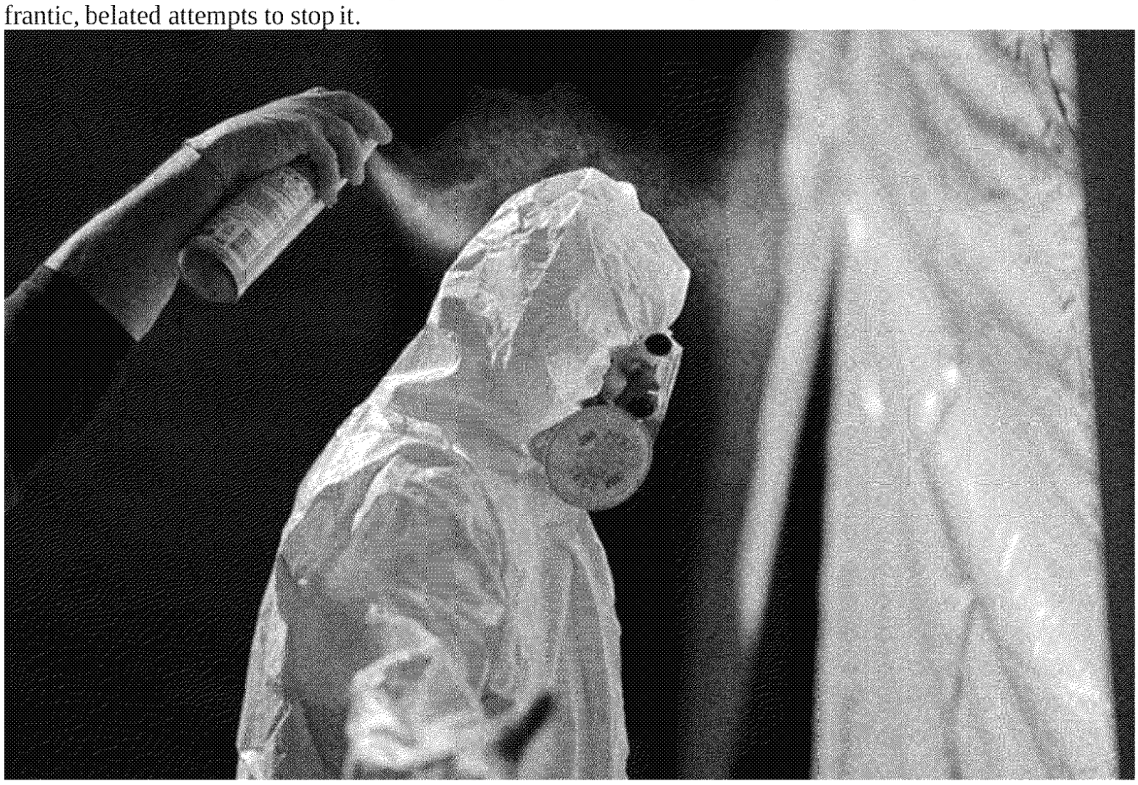
MORENS_SUBPOENA_001804
MORENS_NIH_008212
REL0000479118

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: October 2, 2022 at 22:54:29 EDT
Subject: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do.

In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, 2020.Credit...Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

"Nobody," Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, "had any idea." He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus," the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December 2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.

"Soothsayer" isn't on Quammen's extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of catastrophe. In 2012 he provided a field guide to the future, "Spillover," whose subtitle — "Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" — explains exactly what the scientific community had long been expecting.

"This is a book about the science of SARS-CoV-2," he specifies in his new book. "The medical crisis of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001805
MORENS_NIH_008213
REL0000479118

Covid-19, the heroism of health care workers and other people performing essential services, the unjustly distributed human suffering, and the egregious political malfeasance that made it all worse — those are topics for other books." Instead, he focuses his informed attention on the unsung heroes who dare to wrestle with viruses, those strange entities he calls "the dark angels of evolution." Human beings are part of a sprawling family of interconnected species who can share illness because they all grew up together. It is our common ancestry and related bodily ecology that makes spillover possible between, say, bats and Earth's (currently) dominant mammal.

Covid is, after all, as natural as a wolf cub or David Attenborough, and its thriller-level rate of evolution is part of its danger. "A virus is a parasite, yes," writes Quammen, "a genetic parasite, to be more precise, using the resources of other organisms to replicate its own genome." He demonstrates the sheer *weirdness* of viruses when he explains how difficult it is to even define them.

Quammen follows the story of Covid from scientists' first awareness of the outbreak in Wuhan through reports of Omicron in late 2021. Alongside the human story, spillover between humans and other animals is a persistent theme. Early in 2020, a dog in Hong Kong tested positive. There were positive cats in Minnesota, two positive hippos in Antwerp, a positive tiger in Knoxville. An outbreak spread through mink farms in the Netherlands. Last year, of the many white-tailed deer sampled in Pennsylvania, 44 percent tested positive. The persistent danger of spillover between species informs arguments over the virtues and the flaws of both approaches to pandemics: "prediction and prevention versus surveillance and response."

"Breathless" is so good that I was slow to realize that it lacks the vivid you-are-there details of "Spillover." That's because he *wasn't* there. In "Breathless," there are no scenes of an intrepid author helping trap macaques at a Sufi shrine or examining a white-footed mouse for Lyme-infested larval ticks. Among its other virtues, "Spillover" was something of a nightmare travel book, but "Breathless" is a different species of tour de force. Quammen's research methods have mutated. "I avoided airports for more than two years after Covid-19 exploded," he says up front, "and I got through the year 2020 on one tank of gas." Yet these barriers didn't prevent him from writing a luminous, passionate account of the defining crisis of our time — and the unprecedented international response to it. While many people were begging for mercy from the motley of gods that they also credit with designing this Eden for viruses, epidemiologists and vaccine scientists all over the world raced to save the lives of people they would never meet.

Citing Faulkner's multiple narrators, Quammen says, "The discernment of truth — let's make that 'truth,' because it's such an imperious and suspect word — comes from listening to many voices." He read a library's worth of books and Zoomed with some 95 sources — epidemiologists, geneticists and public health officials who were closely involved in research and decision-making. He smoothly weaves not only their facts, but their way of speaking, into his story. "Spoken words are data, in nonfiction," he says, "and I share scientists' respect for the sanctity of data." He provides a mini-biography of each interviewee. Backstage outtakes humanize the participants, as when Quammen asks Anthony Fauci whether Brad Pitt or Kate McKinnon did a better job of satirizing him. These glimpses undergird his assertion that science is "a rational process leading toward ever-clearer understanding of the material world, but it's also an activity performed by humans."

Quammen marries an old-fashioned love of colorful language to his passion for detail — an odd coupling that results not just in a lucid book about an important topic, but also in a book that's a pleasure to read. "What nature of bug seethed in this dollop of liquid human distress?" he asks of a private genome-sequencing company in Guangzhou. Sometimes his Chandleresque metaphors distract. (When the rate of infection among the deer spikes, it's "like popcorn in a hot pan.") Usually, however, his imagery vividly reinforces a point. He explains that a laboratory sample from bat feces "is not a virus, just as the text of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is not a performed play" — that the sample is, instead, "the script of a virus." Quammen can't resist snarking that Trump, "as you may have heard, is not a scientific sophisticate," but he doesn't waste much time shooting at such an easy target. He describes Elon Musk as an "entrepreneur and spaceman," and Alex Azar, the secretary of health and human services, as "pliable." The "Intelligence Community" is "a bodacious aggregation of intelligences" that includes Space Delta 7 — "within the United States Space Force, whatever that is." Didier Raoult, the French physician who promoted hydroxychloroquine, Quammen terms a "prideful contrarian." Hydroxychloroquine did indeed have a history of prescription for malaria, and, he deduces, presumably, "Trump listened to people who listened to people who listened to Didier Raoult."

While staying on mission, Quammen allows himself room for context. The importance of the February 2020 announcement that scientists had found in pangolins a close match to the virus infecting humans makes more sense — both scientific and narrative — because Quammen begins with a brief survey course on these armored-looking, anteater-like creatures. He smoothly interweaves their evolution, the ecological sin of animal trafficking, the imaginary pharmacological virtues of pangolin scales (which are actually mostly keratin) and the contemporary "vogue in urban China for *ye wei*, or 'wild tastes.'"

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001806
MORENS_NIH_008214
REL0000479118

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

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

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

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

Date:	Tue, 25 May 2021 8:10:09 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Wpost/Gerson: The right is dwelling on slanderous myths about the origins of covid-19
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To:	Gerald Keusch [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6];
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 24, 2021 at 19:06:01 EDT
Subject: Wpost/Gerson: The right is dwelling on slanderous myths about the origins of covid-19

Opinion: The right is dwelling on slanderous myths about the origins of covid-19



MORENS_SUBPOENA_019692
MORENS_NIH_039309
REL0000479119

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) arrives on Capitol Hill on Feb. 11. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)



Opinion by
Michael Gerson
Columnist
May 24, 2021 at 4:49 p.m. EDT

The universe of MAGA politics and media regularly defies Darwin. It is an environment in which the least-fit ideas tend to thrive.

Such is the case with its treatment of the origins of the coronavirus. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has heavily implied that the National Institutes of Health collaborated with Chinese scientists to engineer a supervirus that somehow got released in Wuhan, China. And Fox News's Tucker Carlson, as is typical, turned an implied lie into a vile slander. "More than any other single living American," Carlson has charged, "Tony Fauci is responsible for the covid-19 pandemic."

The prosecutors of this charge have credibility problems. Paul has a history of playing down the pandemic, dismissing the importance of masks, putting his Senate colleagues at risk of deadly infection and refusing to take the coronavirus vaccine. If more Americans had followed Paul's covid example, far fewer of them would still be breathing. Carlson, meanwhile, has set himself the task of distracting attention from President Donald Trump's lethal bungling of the United States' initial pandemic response. In both cases, political need is the father of scurrilous blame shifting.

It is true that a whisper of conspiracy generally moves faster than a briefing book of refutation. And complex scientific matters are particularly easy to distort. But this matter is not especially complicated.

The charge? That the NIH funded "gain of function" research at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology that genetically modified bat viruses to become more lethal and easier to transmit.

The reality? In the aftermath of the SARS-CoV-1 outbreak in 2003 — which emerged from bats — the NIH funded studies to sample and investigate bat viruses in China. It would have been odd to do such work in, say, Luxembourg, given that the guilty bats originated in China. As part of these experiments, viruses were tested to determine whether various spike proteins from existing bat viruses could infect human cells. That is very different from modifying these viruses to become more transmissible or deadly (which is the formal definition of "gain of function" research).

Fine points are generally lost on committed fabulists. But this distinction is not fine. There is a large scientific and ethical distinction between genetic techniques that test the properties of pieces of viruses such as the spike protein that occur in nature, and modifying viruses to become more transmissible or virulent in humans. And we know from laboratory analysis that none of the coronavirus work done under NIH funding corresponds to the novel coronavirus as it actually emerged.

The very limited amount of "gain of function" research funded by NIH generally happens in the United States, under the strictest controls. The terms of the grant in China did not permit such research. The charge that the United States funded the creation of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes covid-19, is categorically false. Claiming otherwise is a despicable calumny.

This does not mean that the origins of the coronavirus are clear. It appears that the closest related viruses to SARS-CoV2 are found hundreds of miles away from Wuhan, where the outbreak first took hold. Most likely, this was a natural event, caused by a leap of the coronavirus from an animal species to humans. But there is still no clear evidence of how or where that happened. So the possibility can't be excluded that this virus was under study at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (possibly carried in cell culture or in the animal where it evolved) and was accidentally released — perhaps by an infected lab tech. (The more diabolical conspiracy theory that the Chinese built the virus from scratch is much less likely, given that the pathogen shows no signs of tampering and used a method of binding to the human cell that was not predicted by previous research.)

All this uncertainty has led to broad discontent with China's compulsive secrecy. The first examination of these issues by the World Health Organization did not inspire much confidence, and was criticized by the United States, the European Union, a global chorus of scientists and the director general of the WHO itself. The NIH has strongly supported mounting a second WHO investigation, to be given unimpeded access to all materials needed to assess what happened in Wuhan in late 2019.

But this kind of necessary reckoning becomes considerably less likely if the U.S. political system remains focused on absurd partisan charges against American public health leaders. The manias and vendettas of Paul, Carlson and the populist right are helping shield Chinese authorities from scrutiny. Every vile, unjustified charge against an American official delays the next stage of Chinese accountability. Every moment in which American politics is occupied with MAGA myths about covid-19 is a Chinese victory.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S.

copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019694
MORENS_NIH_039311
REL0000479119

Date: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 8:07:38 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 8:07:07 PM -0500
Subject: NAM rules governing accusations of misconduct/violations of codes of conduct - Nothing I can see about being recused while the process happens...
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 David Morens b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6

I smelled a rat when the NAM secretary asked me today to 'volunteer' to recuse myself, having told me it was a policy.

Below is the email I got from her and my responses to it. I spent a long time on the web trying to find a specific NAM policy or bylaw that prevents a member taking part in a NAM activity while accused of inappropriate behavior. I found none. Here are the only rules on conduct, which we all voted on 3 years ago:

https://nam.edu/national- academy-of-medicine-code-of-conduct/

Nothing about the process, or not being allowed to take part in NAM activities while disingenuous accusations are being 'investigated' or 'reviewed'.

Next week I'm supposed to take part in a small meeting with Eric Lander (OSTP Director), Victor Dzau, and other leaders to discuss the American Pandemic Preparedness Plan. If this isn't cleared up by then (which I doubt it will be), either I don't show and Victor will have to let everyone know I've been 'suspended' (a public humiliation), or I show up and get accused of not adhering to these rules that aren't visible.

I can't believe that this lab leak origins crap has led me to have private arguments and public fights with the DG of WHO; public spats with Jeff Sachs; legal arguments with NIH; public harassment from Congress; and now what looks like a protracted battle with the National Academy of Medicine. What a life!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

Dear Elena,

So I don't make any infractions of the rules, please could you point me to the section of the NAM Bylaws, or Policies and

Procedures that govern the process being undertaken now in response to these allegations, including on what I can and cannot do while the review is being undertaken. I looked long and hard on the website and can't find the specifics.

This is particularly important because I'm scheduled to take part in meetings very soon as part of my NAM commitments.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015031
MORENS_NIH_030697
REL0000479123

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elen (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday. December 1. 2021 6:25 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

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

Disclaimer

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T
To: Peter Daszak; David Morens
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 3:55:57 PM

A few thoughts as I read this, which I will insert in red below. gtk

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:32 AM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Re. the timeline – that's shown in the system records, and in emails to Erik Stemmy. WIV has confirmed to us that this was the same experiment, so it was absolutely, prove-ably reported to NIH on time in our year 4 report. Erik did nothing wrong – it probably did not rise to the level that any secondary review was necessary – as we explain in the main letter to Michael lauer. The highlighted section is a clear 'out' for NIH re. why they should have interpreted the results as non-problematic or not:

From our upcoming letter to Michael Lauer
Secondly, the direction in our revised NoA was that we should report experiments in which *"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"*. In virological terms, "virus growth" normally refers to viral titer measuring the concentration of infectious viruses by plaque assay. The experiment we reported to NIH, performed one time using x mice per group, actually shows genome copies per gram *not* viral titer. We have been advised by (I would say 'highly experienced,' not senior) senior virologists that data on genome copies per gram usually do not accurately equate to viral titer, since genomic material from inactivated, incompletely formed, or dead virus are also measured. Viral titers were not conducted in this experiment. We also note that the genome copy data for SHC014 are only enhanced relative to the WIV1 backbone at the earliest part of the experiment, and considerable variability within the groups. with often (I'm not quite large error bars. Importantly, by Day 6-8, there was no discernably significant difference among the genome copy per gram data, suggesting that these differences, if in fact real and reproducible, were transient and viral genome copy data were statistically equal among viral types by the end of this short experiment. Given the small number of mice, it is also uncertain if the survival and weight loss data were statistically relevant. We believed NIH read the data the same way because we received no feedback at all or any request to provide further clarification or that a secondary review should be undertaken. In any event, as already noted above, this experiment was not repeated. [Delete the following] All this suggests that the rationale NIH appears to have used at the time for *not* highlighting this work as requiring further clarification or secondary review, was appropriate, and may explain the lack of request for further information from NIH to us.

Re. the system shutting us out –(I'm not exactly clear what this means. I would revise this portion. Ignorance of process by a first time renewal grant is no excuse. You have to submit a final report even if your grant isn't renewed. I think you should apologize first and then provide a rationale. Part of that was the fact that you had scored in the 2nd or 3rd percentile and the work was going forward so you presumed the next report was at the end of year 1 of the renewal grant. You can mention

MORENS_NIH_046883
REL0000479125

you asked NIH Grants management about it, didn't hear back, and were focused on gearing up for the new set of specific aims. it was my first renewal and we were unclear of what to do, but we asked an NIH Grants management specialist (Tseday Girma) on 7/30/19 what the deadline was on submitting the year 5 report, and if we could now go ahead. We received no response from that person. Erik was cc'd on this but surely it's up to the Grants Management Specialist to get back to us. The next correspondence I received about our grant was then the notice to remove WIV and then a few days later, to terminate.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:36 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Peter, i will be meeting with Tony about this later on

Does Stemmy know about this new timeline and will he back you up, including the problem with being shut out of the electronic report system? d

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_NIH_046884
REL0000479125

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 25, 2021, at 06:37, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Yes – I think you're right. I'm trying to walk the line in this letter between clearly stating that EcoHealth didn't breach reporting requirements, and not causing any damage to NIH, but I do have to respond if they're going to be out there with comments to the press like Francis who is quoted in the Washington Post as saying there'll be consequences for us for 'messing up':

> The grant to EcoHealth has been suspended, Collins said Thursday. "They messed up here. There's going to be some consequences for EcoHealth," he said. But he also said that, had the experimental result been reported earlier, "it would not have been a reason to sort of hit the panic button and say my god this is dangerous stuff."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/10/21/nih-ecohealth-alliance-coronavirus/

I get it that the consequences may not amount to much, but if the public is being told we did risky research and didn't monitor it well, they'll not support us if NIH cancels all our funding.

Please tell Francis, Tony, Dr. Tabak and all that my whole family is being affected when they read comments like this in the press. The toll is awful, and the language they are using is just not fair. We're a $10 million a year non-profit – they represent NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

USA

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

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

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Guys, i will try to weigh in later today as i will be fully swamped until then

Peter, from Tony's numerous recent comments to me, and from what Francis has been vocal about over the past 5 days, they are trying to protect you, which also protects their own reputations

I hate to be too optimistic but maybe the tide is turning? d

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

> On Oct 24, 2021, at 23:56, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:
>
> Hi Jerry and David,
>
> I know it's expecting a lot, but I'm trying to rapidly respond to Michael Lauer's letter demanding IACUCs and all unpublished data, as well as to Tabak's public statement that EcoHealth failed to comply with reporting restrictions.
>
> Please have a look through this letter, and use track changes or comment boxes to suggest where the language needs to be stronger or more wimpy. I'm trying to walk the line between clearly refuting the allegations, and not throwing NIAID program staff under the bus.
>
> I'm hoping to submit this either Monday evening or Tuesday, ahead of the

MORENS_NIH_046886
REL0000479125

deadline, so we can remove ourselves from the press attacks quickly, and tell people publicly that we complied with reporting requirements.

David – I'll send some bullets for you to pass on to Tony later on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 6:58:29 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 6:55:23 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Notes from our call
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Congratulations Rich. My mother had an aortic valve replacement due to scarlet fever as a young girl affecting her endothelial cells. It gave her a new lease of life and we were v. grateful for that…

I hope you're going to take it a little bit easy for a while before signing up for the Boston Marathon!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Perfectly. I had an aortic valve replacement by TAVR last Tuesday at 2:00 pm and walked out of MGH at 11:30 the next day. I have been feeling good ever since and was issued a clean bill of health today.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018156
MORENS_NIH_037095
REL0000479129

Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Dasza b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 g >
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

I hope everything went well, Rich!

Best Peter

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

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

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

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
b6

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 4:10 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018157
MORENS_NIH_037096
REL0000479129

No luck though.

We have to help ourselves!

Rich

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

Executive Assistant b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T. [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens < b6 ; Roberts, Rich [b6 effrey Sturchio < b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6], Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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:

1. What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
    1. Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018160
MORENS_NIH_037099
REL0000479129

group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack

1. How should we reach out to build a coalition?
    1. 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.

1. Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
    1. AAAS
    2. AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
    3. American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
    4. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
    5. Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
    6. Georgia Global Health Alliance
    7. Bay Area Global Health Alliance
    8. Consortium of Universities for Global Health
    9. COVID Collaborative
    10. Global Health Council
    11. Global Health Technologies Coalition
    12. Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
    13. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
    14. Nobel Laureates Campaigns
    15. Pandemic Action Network
    16. PATH
    17. Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
    18. Union of Concerned Scientists
    19. Washington Global Health Alliance
    20. 156 virologists letter
    21. NAM
    22. NAS
    23. NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
    24. CUGH
    25. The pandemic action coalition
    26. FASEB
    27. Global Health technologies coalition
    28. APLU (KHG has connection)
    29. Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
    30. Dr. Tony Fauci
    31. Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
    32. OSTP
    33. ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018161
MORENS_NIH_037100
REL0000479129

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Update

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
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
b6

Meeting ID: b6
Passcode: b6
One tap mobile
b6 US (New York)
b6 US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018163
MORENS_NIH_037102
REL0000479129

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

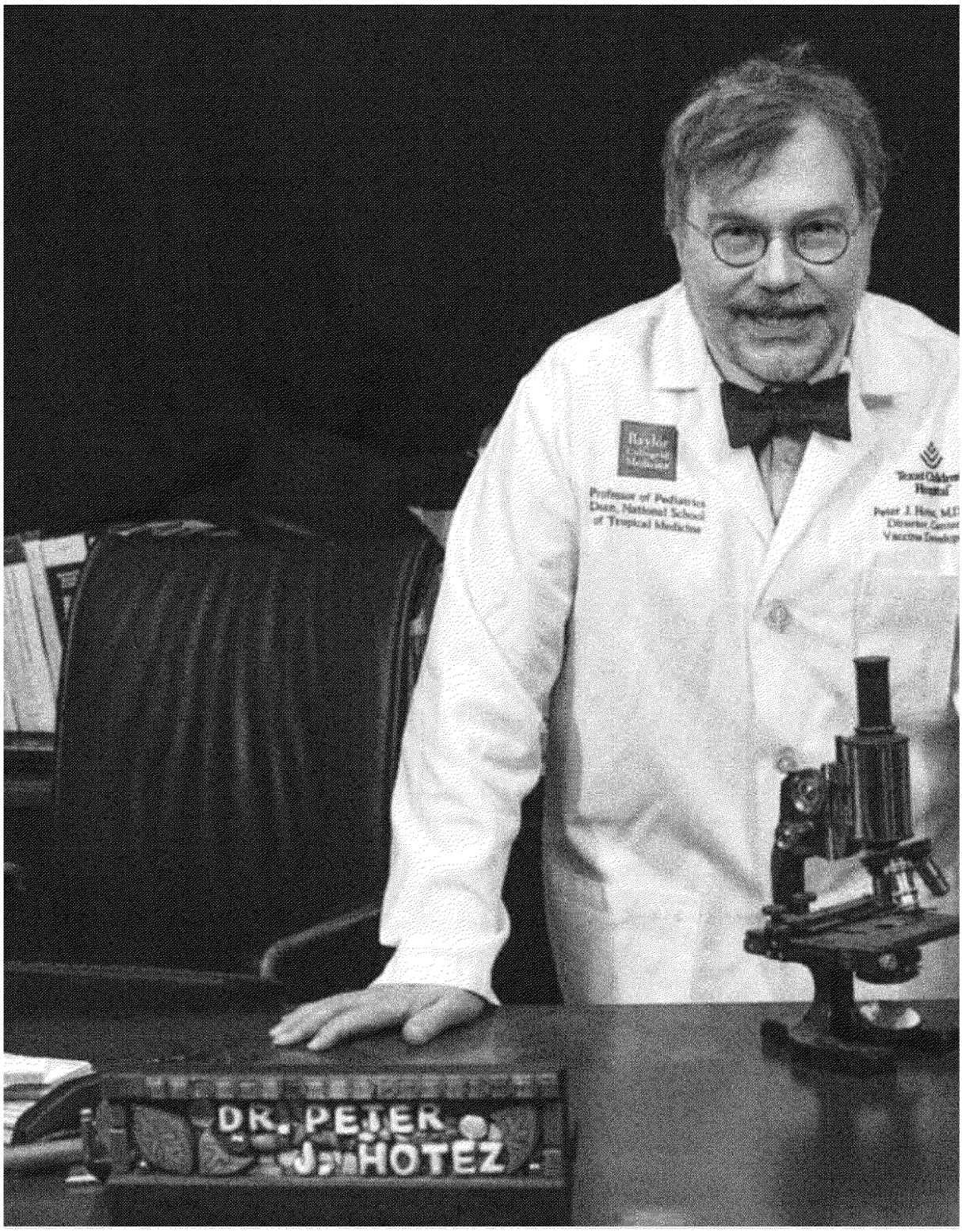
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

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

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

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018165
MORENS_NIH_037104
REL0000479129



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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018166
MORENS_NIH_037105
REL0000479129

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018168
MORENS_NIH_037107
REL0000479129

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018169
MORENS_NIH_037108
REL0000479129

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018172
MORENS_NIH_037111
REL0000479129

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] Keusch, Gerald T < [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio < [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens b6 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 b6 wrote:

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:

Peter:

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

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

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6> Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Cc: David Morens <b6> Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>>
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: David Morens b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018176
MORENS_NIH_037115
REL0000479129

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

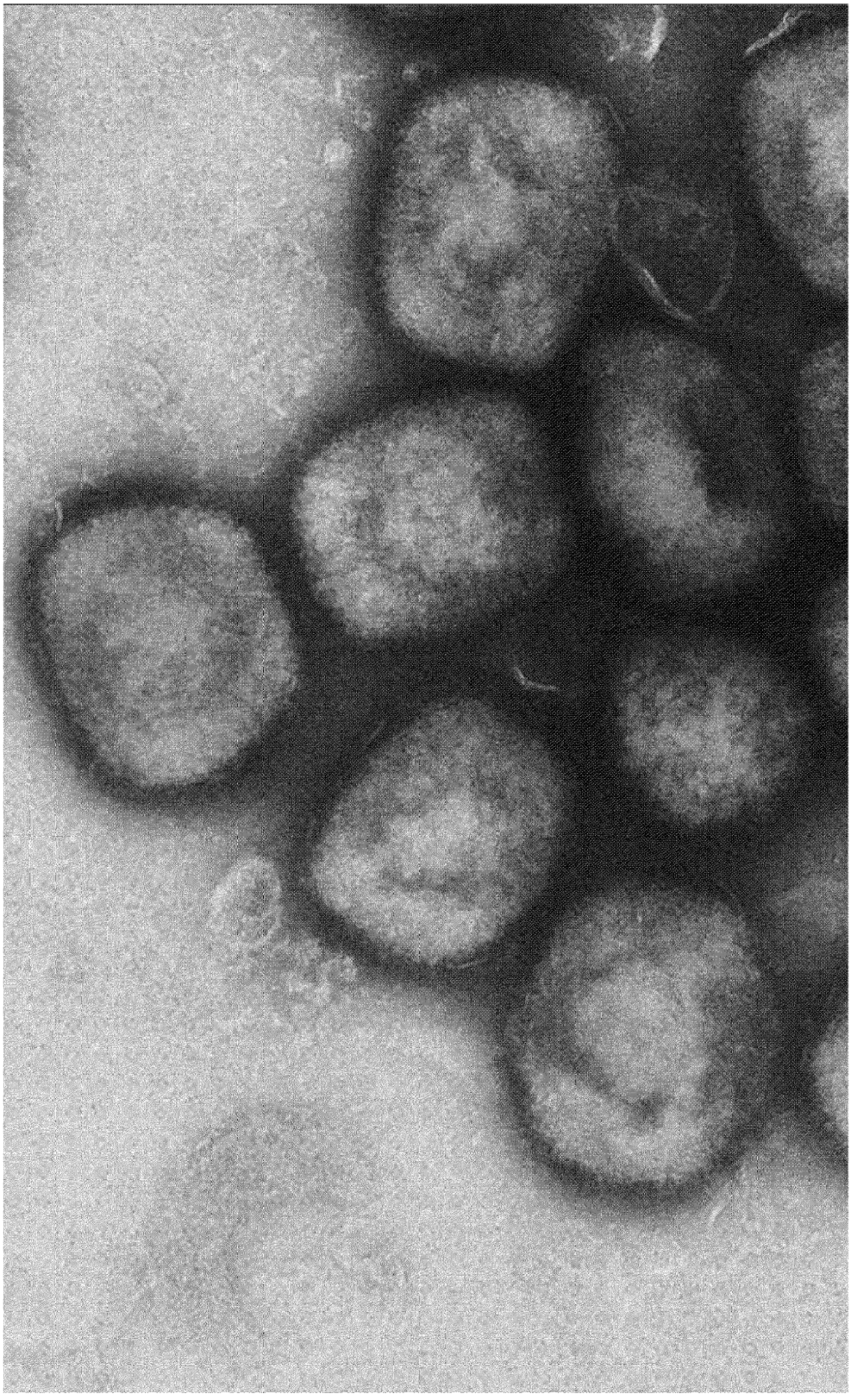
POLICY-ISH

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



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018177
MORENS_NIH_037116
REL0000479129



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

NIAID

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018178
MORENS_NIH_037117
REL0000479129

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

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

The origins of the pandemic

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

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

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

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

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

A bird flu study raises alarm

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018179
MORENS_NIH_037118
REL0000479129

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

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

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

Sponsor Message

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

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

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

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

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

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

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

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

Sponsor Message

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018180
MORENS_NIH_037119
REL0000479129

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

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

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Rich Roberts b6 >
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018181
MORENS_NIH_037120
REL0000479129

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 [b6] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak < [b6] ; David Morens < [b6] ; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] ; Aleksei Chmura < [b6] ; Rich Roberts [b6] >
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens < [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio < [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak b6 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 b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

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

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: David Moren b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Gerald Keusch b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018185
MORENS_NIH_037124
REL0000479129

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 b6 from b6 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 <
b6
> 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_018186
MORENS_NIH_037125
REL0000479129

USA

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; David Morens <b6>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak < b6 > wrote:

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Peter Daszak <
[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <
[b6]>; David Morens <
[b6]>; Gerald Keusch <[b6]
Rich Roberts [b6]
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[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei
Chmura [b6]g >; David Morens <
[b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts <
[b6]
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6

b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 1:21:05 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 1:21:02 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC: David Morens b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >;

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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >
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
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Robert Kessler < b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020941
MORENS_NIH_041707
REL0000479134

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 <b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 bert Kessler b6
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020942
MORENS_NIH_041708
REL0000479134

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
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

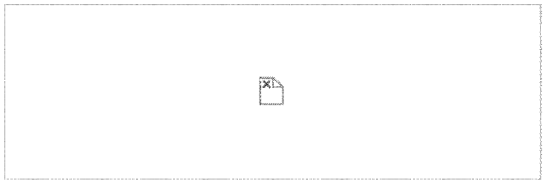
Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
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
b6

Phone (b) (6)



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

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

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков [redacted]; Leendertz, Fabian [redacted]; Peter Daszak [redacted]; LeendertzF [redacted] Keith Hamilton [redacted] John Watson [redacted]; DEBBICHE, Hassene [redacted] Thea Kølsen Fischer [redacted]; BAERT, Primaël [redacted]; SHEATH, Danny [redacted] Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) [redacted]; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan [redacted]; DRURY, Patrick Anthony [redacted] Ken Maeda [redacted] M.P.G. Koopmans [redacted]; Hayman, David [redacted]; IVANOVIC, Dragana [redacted]; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag [redacted]; Dominic Dwyer [redacted]
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. [redacted] Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria [redacted] BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim [redacted]
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

Disclaimer

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

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

<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

Disclaimer

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

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates

email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020946
MORENS_NIH_041712
REL0000479134

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:13 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:16 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image005.png

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Jeffrey Sturchio** b6
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 10:32 AM
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>, Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>, Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <b6>, Aleksei Chmura <b6>, David Morens <b6>

LOL!

JLS

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

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

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

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

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

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

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

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

US RTK

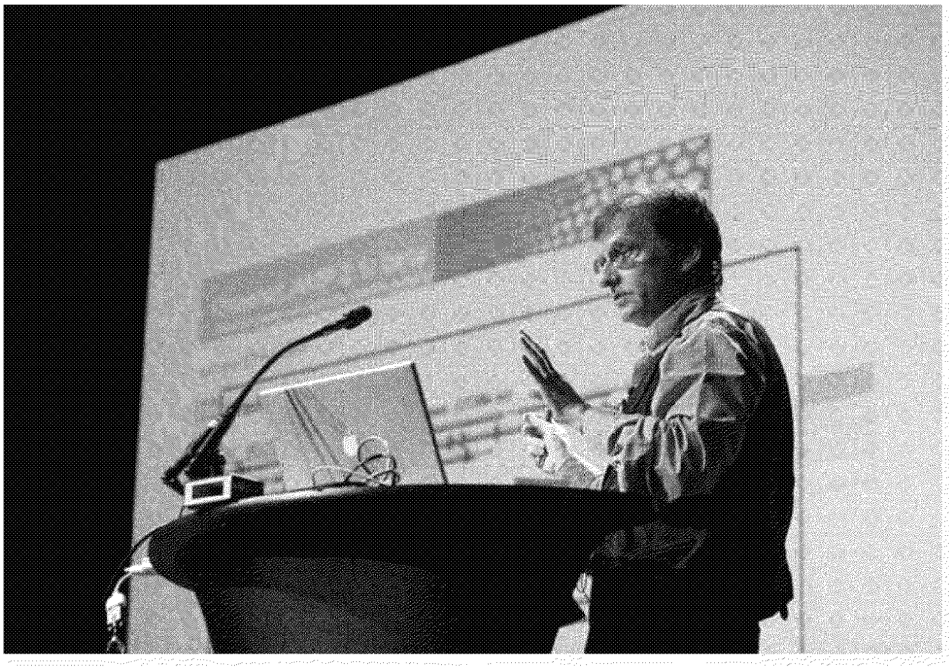
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Print Email Share Tweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010295
MORENS_NIH_020805
REL0000479142

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 Medicin*e," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

≤

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

Date:	Tue, 7 Dec 2021 12:20:00 AM -0500
Sent:	Tue, 7 Dec 2021 12:19:58 AM -0500
Subject:	RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC:	Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >;

Hi Peter,
I have written to the list serve of NAM members who signed on to my letter to the NASEM Presidents in 2020 to speak out about political interference in the peer review process at NIH, many of whom also signed the Op-Ed I published with Rick Klausner and Ken Olden in The Hill. I included the republic E+C committee members letter to Victor Dzau, discussed the flaws and the bias, and asked them to write in support of you and EHA.

I am still fighting the battle over the Op-Ed about Collins and NIH.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >
Subject: FW: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
Importance: High

Follow the email chain below for the latest from NAM on my 'accusations'.

As well as them refusing to give me a copy of the regulations and procedures, I've just received emails suddenly 'rescheduling' or canceling my NAM and NASEM committee calls this week.

I have zero faith in this process at the moment. Every time I email this person and cc. Aleksei, she responds without the cc. She's told me not to share any of this information, yet won't share any details about the rules and regulations. At the same time my reputation is on the line again, and in the hands of a small number of unknown people who clearly want to keep things quiet so that NAM doesn't come under attack.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: b6
Website: b6
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:17 PM
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6 b6
Subject: RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Thanks very much for the prompt reply.

I look forward to hearing from you once the Assessment Committee has determined the next steps. I sincerely hope this will not become a full-blown review by the Conduct Review Committee – these accusations are part of a political campaign that is designed to undermine and discredit scientists to push a political agenda.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Subject: Re: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for the follow-up note.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015178
MORENS_NIH_031646
REL0000479143

The process is outlined in an internal document that is not part of the members' materials posted on the website nor available in another location.

I can share with you that the first process is a review by the President, Home Secretary, and Membership Director. Following a preliminary review, the NAM's Assessment Panel is convened to review the materials. The Assessment Panel is charged with reviewing the allegations, determining whether supplemental materials are needed, and making a recommendation whether to convene the Conduct Review Committee.

I am in the midst of scheduling a meeting of the Assessment Panel; we all understand the issue of time-sensitivity. I will do my best to operate in the most expeditious manner possible.

Best,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:43 AM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Dear Elena,

Thank you for your email re. confidentiality. Unfortunately, as is typical with these political attacks, the Republican members of the House E&C Committee have not kept this confidential. In fact, they posted the letter in full on their website as soon as they sent it to you. Their goal by making these easily refuted accusations public, like their previous attacks, is to undermine the science on COVID origins, and to smear scientists publicly so as to discredit us.

Again, I am asking again for you to send me the written processes and rules for how accusations of misconduct against members are to be dealt with. It seems unfair that these accusations are now public so colleagues can see them, but as a NAM member I don't have clear guidelines on what I am and am not allowed to do or say, on who exactly will be making a decision on these awful allegations, nor on how long this will hang over me. As I mentioned to you in my last email, I searched long and hard on the website and was unable to find details specific to the process and procedures, even on the NAM member-protected pages.

I understand none of us wants to be in the position of having to deal with this, but I am simply trying to clear my name and reputation as rapidly as possible.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015179
MORENS_NIH_031647
REL0000479143

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: b6
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015181
MORENS_NIH_031649
REL0000479143

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 12:30:37 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 12:30:28 PM -0400
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
From: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC: David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Robert Kessler b6

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020927
MORENS_NIH_041693
REL0000479152

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

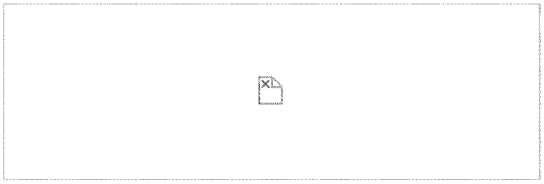
Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
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
b6

Phone: b6



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

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

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

>From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise.

Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков (b) (6) Leendertz, Fabian <b6>; Peter Daszak <b6>; LeendertzF b6>; Keith Hamilton b6 John Watson b6>; DEBBICHE, Hassene b6 Thea Kølsen Fischer <b6>; BAERT, Primaël b6>; SHEATH, Danny b6 Nguyen, Hung (ILRI b6>; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan b6 DRURY, Patrick Anthony b6>; Ken Maeda b6>; M.P.G. Koopmans b6 <b6 Hayman, David b6>; IVANOVIC, Dragana <b6>; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Far b6 >; Dominic Dwyer <b6>
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. b6 Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) ; BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim b6
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020929
MORENS_NIH_041695
REL0000479152

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

Disclaimer

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

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

<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:02 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens <dm270q@nih.gov>;

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 12:49 PM
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio
b6 >, Peter Daszak b6
David Morens b6 >, Aleksei Chmura
<chmura@ecohealthalliance.org >

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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 b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > 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 b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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 [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio
[b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura
[b6] >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003815
MORENS_NIH_010733
REL0000479153

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 > wrote:

It's just

b6

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003816
MORENS_NIH_010734
REL0000479153

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

kfcarvil@texaschildrens.org

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > 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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: b6

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 > 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 b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > 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_003821
MORENS_NIH_010739
REL0000479153

Date: Mon, 24 May 2021 6:58:57 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Wpost: The vexing 'lab leak' theory on China and the coronavirus
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
To: Gerald Keusch <b6> Peter Daszak <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Attachments: image001.jpg

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
Date: May 24, 2021 at 18:45:43 EDT
Subject: Wpost: The vexing 'lab leak' theory on China and the coronavirus

The vexing 'lab leak' theory on China and the coronavirus



By
Aaron Blake
Senior reporter
May 24, 2021 at 1:47 p.m. EDT

It has been said many times that Donald Trump's presidency was a stress test for democracy. And that's certainly true. (It's a reality that very much persists to this date.)

But it was also a stress test for those charged with covering it. What do you do when someone bulldozes so many political norms and unwritten rules of political discourse? How do you cover unfounded and specious allegations lodged not from some random Internet commenter, but from the most powerful man in the world? You can fact-check, but do you in the process inadvertently lend them credence? Do you call the claims "baseless" or "conspiracy theories?" Do you call them "lies," even if you can't 100 percent disprove them, or even if you don't know for sure that the person promoting them actually knows better?

It has become evident that some corners of the mainstream media overcorrected when it came to one particular theory from Trump and his allies: that the coronavirus emanated from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, rather than naturally.

It's also true that many criticisms of the coverage are overwrought and that Trump's and his allies' claims invited and deserved skepticism.

Evidence has increasingly pointed to the plausibility of the "lab leak" theory, which most scientists and the media (often citing those same scientists) originally downplayed or, in some cases, dismissed. The latest example is a Wall Street Journal report that cites U.S. intelligence that three workers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology became so ill in November 2019 — shortly before the virus was unleashed not just on Wuhan but eventually the world — that they required hospital care. This is unverified intelligence, but leading infectious-disease expert Anthony S. Fauci, who downplayed the lab leak theory in the past, was asked recently whether he was still confident about that, and he said, "No, actually." He urged further investigation.

The Washington Post editorial board, among others, have in recent weeks upped the demands for a fuller accounting of just how the virus began. In an instructive piece last week, former New York Times health reporter Donald G. McNeil Jr., who covered the virus extensively, wrote about his early skepticism of the lab leak theory and how he has warmed to it.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019729
MORENS_NIH_039346
REL0000479168

Here are some relevant parts of his post on Medium:

We may never know. But the argument that it could have leaked out of the Wuhan Institute of Virology or a sister lab in Wuhan has become considerably stronger than it was a year ago, when the screaming was so loud that it drowned out serious discussion.

...

I had been skeptical of the "lab leak" theory because animal spillover is such an obvious answer. Genetics has proven that almost every disease mankind has faced jumped from animals: bubonic plague from rodents, measles probably from cows, whooping cough maybe from dogs, and so on.

Also, the leak idea was just too conveniently conspiratorial.

...

But the Occam's Razor argument — what's the likeliest explanation, animal or lab? — keeps shifting in the direction of the latter.

As McNeil notes, this is very much an open question. Many people are talking about the new evidence as if it comes close to proving the "lab leak" theory. It doesn't; it just renders it more plausible.

As for the allegations that this was underplayed? There is plenty of grist for that mill.

Media reports often referred to the idea that the virus leaked from a lab as "debunked." Others described such theories as "conspiracies" or "conspiracy theories." Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) was criticized in February 2020 for playing up the possibility of a lab leak, with reports citing the scientists who disbelieved or dismissed the theory. A CNN story cited a poll showing 30 percent of Americans believed a theory about a lab leak that was "almost certainly not true." Others, including some from The Washington Post, described the theories as "unsubstantiated."

One thing you'll see if you click on some of the links above or similar articles is that the text of the articles is often more circumspect. Few of them described the idea as definitively disproved, but rather cited the then-overwhelming scientific views at the time that there was little to no evidence to back them up.

In addition, the words "conspiracy" and "unsubstantiated" would indeed seem to apply, given such a leak would necessarily involve some kind of Chinese government coverup or a lack of actual, public evidence to prove the theory.

The phrase "conspiracy theory" became something of a fallback for covering Trump's and others' wild claims during his presidency; it doesn't rule out that there was indeed some kind of conspiracy involved that we might not know about.

Which brings us to Trump and his administration. For them, this wasn't some kind of conspiracy theory; they leaned into it — hard. They also did so while declining to provide evidence to back up their claims.

Trump began the process shortly after the virus made its way to the United States, as this helpful thread from The Fix's J.M. Rieger shows.

By late April and early May 2020, this became something amounting to the party line. Trump said at a news conference that he had a "high degree of confidence" that the virus originated in a Wuhan lab. This didn't jibe with a report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, though, which said that while that was a possibility, it needed further examination. When pressed on what evidence he had, Trump responded, "I can't tell you that. I'm not allowed to tell you that."

Trump at many other points suggested such a thing, without backing it up.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also leaned in. He told ABC News around the same time that "there's enormous evidence that this is where this began." He added: "I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan."

Except the "enormous" evidence wasn't produced by the Trump administration, for some reason. Nor was even piecemeal evidence.

And that's despite Trump very badly wanting to reinforce China's status as a boogeyman not just during the 2020 election, but also as the culprit for a coronavirus that was spreading and imperiling him politically. The conservative Wall Street Journal editorial board wrote an editorial shortly after both Trump's and Pompeo's comments calling for evidence of their claims. "If they don't want the issue to be dismissed as an anti-China campaign ploy, they should make the evidence public," the WSJ editorial board said.

Pompeo last week highlighted that ABC interview, claiming the interviewer, Martha Raddatz, "stopped just short of offering me a tin hat." The reality of the interview was very justifiable questioning about something for which we had seen little to no evidence. Raddatz merely pressed Pompeo about exactly what he was claiming might have happened.

Given how the Trump administration handled intelligence, there is very little doubt that, if some kind of proof had existed, Trump would have pushed hard for its release. Trump could have done so whenever he wanted. It never happened. The best evidence for it has emerged a year later, with Trump out of power.

Trump had every reason in his book to lay this at China's feet even more than the available evidence dictated. And that's not just because the "lab leak" theory more directly implied wrongdoing by China, but also because it was a necessary predicate to an even-more-conspiratorial theory: that this was some kind of bioweapon engineered by the Chinese. (Even if the virus did come from the Wuhan lab, that doesn't mean it was deliberately released. Doubts about the latter remain significantly greater.)

Given everything we know about how Trump handled such things, caution and skepticism were invited. That (very much warranted) caution and skepticism spilled over into some oversimplification, particularly when it came to summarizing the often more circumspect reporting.
The problem in all of this is that we might never truly know the truth.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019731
MORENS_NIH_039348
REL0000479168

Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 8:35:13 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 8:35:12 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" b6
To: daszak@ecohealthalliance.org; b6 b6
CC: b6 b6 b6 b6 b6
Attachments: Untitled attachment 10087.jfif; Untitled attachment 10090.jfif

---

Antimicrobial resistance has been a key focus of mine over the past decade or more. I have been amazed at how thoroughly Chinese researchers are investigating this, publishing papers that are far more damning of their nation's practices than I'd ever seen elsewhere else. It gave me a strong sense of the scientific resolve that exists within China.

From: b6 At: 09/09/21 10:31:19 UTC+10:00
To: b6

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , b6, b6 b6

Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom – I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work – it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023014
MORENS_NIH_044089
REL0000479172

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Kristian G. Andersen b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Edward Holmes b6 ; Jason Gale <
b6 ; Rasmussen, Angie < b6 ; Robert Kessler <
b6 >; Stephen Goldstein b6
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying…

From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Andersen b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Robert Garry b6 Edward Holmes <
b6 , Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, "Rasmussen, Angie" <
b6 >, Robert Kessle b6 , Stephen Goldstein <
b6
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

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

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that

really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023016
MORENS_NIH_044091
REL0000479172

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Kristian G. Andersen <b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Garry, Robert F <b6>; Edward Holmes <b6>; Jason Gale <b6>; Rasmussen, Angie <b6>; Robert Kessler <b6>; Stephen Goldstein <b6
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak [redacted] b6 > wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
>
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
>
> 15h
>
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With
>
> @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023018
MORENS_NIH_044093
REL0000479172



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…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023019
MORENS_NIH_044094
REL0000479172



Mara Hvistendahl

@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h

There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Garry, Robert F. [b6]; Kristian G. Andersen [b6]; Edward Holmes < [b6] >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
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 [b6] wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023021
MORENS_NIH_044096
REL0000479172

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen b6 ; Edward Holme b6
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net> b6 b6 b6
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 <b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes b6
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; b6
b6
<
b6 b6
>; Garry, Robert F <
b6
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 <b6 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/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023023
MORENS_NIH_044098
REL0000479172

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:18 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

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

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004273
MORENS_NIH_011253
REL0000479174

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004274
MORENS_NIH_011254
REL000479174

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: p.hotez

Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: b6

iPhone

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

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

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

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

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN ANIMAL LAB, ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

POSTED BY AMANDA NIEVES

24 JUNE 2022 | BLOG

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004281
MORENS_NIH_011261
REL0000479174

Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: p.hotez

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004282
MORENS_NIH_011262
REL0000479174

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:40:18 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Mon, May 8, 2023 at 3:41 PM
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >,
Hall, Mary Ann b6 >, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >,
Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens
b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >,
b6 >, Alison Andre
b6 >

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hall, Mary Ann b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; b6
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004071
MORENS_NIH_011031
REL0000479177

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 [b6]>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Hall, Mary Ann [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6]>; [b6]
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

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hall, Mary Ann b6 >
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; b6
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 | www.bcm.edu

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; b6
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 | www.bcm.edu

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 | www.bcm.edu

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org >; Aleksei Chmura

[redacted] >; David Morens [redacted] >;
Gerald Keusch [redacted] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted] >;
Rich Roberts [redacted] >; Hall, Mary Ann [redacted] >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [redacted] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted] >
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 [redacted]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[redacted] | Phone: [redacted] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004077
MORENS_NIH_011037
REL0000479177

Date: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 1:22:57 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 1:18:28 PM -0400
Subject: RE: NAS workshop: Potential Benefits of Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3jY9zjM
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Great to see this – I haven't had chance to read up on the pro-GoF arguments, and this is a good start…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
b6
Subject: FW: NAS workshop: Potential Benefits of Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3jY9zjM

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022846
MORENS_NIH_043850
REL0000479182

Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

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



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <gfolkers@niaid.nih.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:12 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: NAS workshop: Potential Benefits of Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3jY9zjM

Potential Benefits of Gain-of-Function Research

The benefits that have resulted from the billions of dollars invested in biomedical research over the past several decades are seldom disputed. Biomedical research has made enormous contributions to the understanding of disease and the development of cures through the creation of countless innovations for improving and protecting human health, including new animal models and more effective vaccines and drugs. However, as pointed out by Dr. Ronald Atlas, from the University of Louisville and one of the symposium planning committee members, the benefits of basic biomedical research for medical practice and public health may be long term and their value not immediately evident. The results of particular types of research cannot always be predicted, and benefits are often serendipitous. Because it is not possible to predict what breakthroughs may occur as a result of fundamental research, it is impossible to quantify the benefits of fundamental research for risk/benefit analyses. Long-term research benefits are achievable, but it is not possible to specify what these are when the research is initiated.

Research using Gain-of-Function (GoF) techniques is no different with respect to what it can achieve in the long term, at least according to many of the symposium participants. Atlas noted that, although there was no attempt to achieve a consensus, no disagreement was voiced to the repeated claims of various presenters that in the short term GoF research is helpful for adapting viruses to growth in culture and for developing essential animal models for emerging pathogens, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), and escape mutations to understand drug resistance and viral evasion of the immune system. In the long-term it may also allow the generation of information that is not obtainable through other methods, but whether all the long-term benefits envisioned for GoF research will actually be realized is still unclear. Vaccine producers in particular disagree on whether GoF methods are essential for vaccine development, so the contributions of GoF research to vaccine development need careful evaluation. Increasing reliance on gene sequences to predict phenotypes may increase GoF research's importance over time. As was clear from the presentations in Session 4 of the symposium, there is wide recognition that it is not yet possible to predict phenotype from genotype, but Dr. Philip Dormitzer, from Novartis Vaccines and a member of the symposium planning committee, noted that as more genotype-phenotype linkages are established, it may enable keeping certain viral characteristics out of vaccine strains.

Two symposium sessions were devoted to presentations on the potential benefits of GoF research, one focusing on the role of GoF in surveillance, detection, and prediction and the other on its role in treatment and response.

Go to:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022847
MORENS_NIH_043851
REL0000479182

SURVEILLANCE, DETECTION, AND PREDICTION

The first presentation in Session 4 was given by Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, who discussed the information garnered from GoF studies about what she believes are its public health implications. Her home institution is one of five National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance in the United States and focuses on the animal-human interface. St. Jude is also a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating center for studies on the ecology of influenza and is part of a global influenza surveillance and response system that includes six WHO collaborating centers and 144 national influenza centers throughout the world. St. Jude collaborates with colleagues in the animal health sector and their main role is to decide on the influenza strains that are incorporated into the seasonal flu vaccines. They also decide whether vaccines or candidate vaccine viruses are needed for emerging zoonotic threats.

The national influenza centers conduct viral strain surveillance throughout the year, looking at the genetic information from human as well as emerging zoonotic viruses. Every February and September, representatives from the WHO centers and central regulatory laboratories as well as animal health experts go through the surveillance data to decide on which viruses to choose as vaccine strains. This information is given to the vaccine manufacturers and regulatory agencies, and 6-9 months later the vaccines become available. She described many of the complexities of the process. She noted, in particular, that determining the function of amino acid changes in the viruses circulating in the field is one of the key tasks. As an example, she discussed an ongoing outbreak of H5 viruses in Cambodia. Through GoF research, it has been determined that the presence of certain genetic markers in the outbreak strain suggested that this particular virus could be more readily transmitted, at least in ferrets. This information has provided the persuasive factor to move forward with the development of a vaccine.

Schultz-Cherry noted that GoF research-derived information is also used for risk assessment. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed a risk assessment tool, the Influenza Risk Assessment Tool, to rank the risk associated with particular viruses. She stated that the result of using the Tool is not a prediction of the next pandemic, but rather an objective means of prioritizing viruses for future risk management. The Tool looks at the properties of a virus. What kind of receptors does it bind to? Is it more mammalian or avian? Does it transmit in animal models, or does it have molecular signatures that would suggest transmissibility? What is its genomic variation? She stated that all of this information, especially the molecular determinants of transmissibility, has been generated through GoF studies at some point, perhaps even as far back as the 1970s. She stated that the ability to prioritize is important because of limited resources; vaccines cannot be made for every new emerging virus.

Schultz-Cherry's final points dealt with the limitations of these studies. Phenotype still cannot be predicted from genotype. We may know a lot from studies of particular amino acid changes in one strain of virus that may not apply to another strain. She noted that opponents of GoF research have said that this is a reason to not continue this work. She would argue, however, that inability to predict phenotype is precisely why GoF studies must continue so that eventually this inability can be overcome.

During the discussion following the presentations, Schultz-Cherry was asked what is the trajectory of the information being used for vaccine candidate selection? She explained that the risk assessment tool is continually updated to add new information about molecular determinants of virulence and transmissibility. She believes that the more information we have, the better we will be able to predict the risk of a pandemic and then use that prediction to prioritize vaccine strain selections and make the vaccines available.

Dr. Christophe Fraser of Imperial College, London next spoke about potential pandemics. He began by stating that he would scrutinize the benefits of GoF experiments using a narrow definition of GoF as dealing with the transmissibility of the highest risk potential pandemic pathogens (PPPs). He is the Deputy Director of the Center for Outbreak Analysis and Modeling, which is also a WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Modelling, located in London. He and his colleagues at the Centre have worked on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, the initial response to the 2009 influenza pandemic, and have synthesized a variety of surveillance, neurological, and epidemiological information. In 2014, their work turned to both MERS, for which they were trying to quantify its transmissibility to humans, and Ebola as part of the WHO response team. He noted that, on a global scale, the interventions in the event of an outbreak are quite simple—well-organized classical public health tools. The key aspect is timeliness, and the classical tools are diagnostics, social distancing, and risk communication. Probably the area most lacking at the moment on a global scale is rapid diagnostics to allowed triaging of people, which has been made very clear with Ebola. Data systems, multidisciplinary validation, and sharing of data and samples are all required. There is also a huge role for basic science, but once an epidemic has started, the value of information from this limited realm of GoF work on transmissibility is unclear. The role of such work is clearly going to be in predicting pandemics. He stated, however, that H5N1, H7N9, MERS, and Ebola had all clearly been identified as threats prior to any GoF-PPP experiments, although this is less the case for the 2009 H1N1 outbreak and SARS. Nevertheless, the failure to predict outbreaks of the first four pathogens he listed was due to surveillance gaps, not a lack of understanding. Of the viruses that emerged in 2009, there were no closely related viruses found by surveillance in any swine populations for 12 years prior to the emergence of H1N1. MERS also emerged from a complete surveillance gap.

The next utility that has been claimed for GoF research-derived data is for predicting emergence. The data from the two experiments on H5N1 transmissibility were plugged into a model by Colin Russell and Derek Smith (Russell et al., 2012), who concluded that it is not possible to calculate the level of pandemic risk precisely because of uncertainties in some aspects of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022848
MORENS_NIH_043852
REL0000479182

biology. Fraser stated that he very much endorses that statement; it is not possible to calculate the level of risk from the mutational landscape. The aim in Russell et al. (2012) was to conduct basic science to understand the factors that increase or decrease risk, not to assess the actual risk. Russell's work built on earlier work that attempted to predict pandemics. The earlier work from Jamie Lloyd Smith tried to establish a general rule, which is that infection begets transmission and transmission begets epidemics. Things that can cause transmission are much more likely to result in epidemics than things that are not already transmissible.

The WHO uses an empirical, rather than a theoretical, approach, meaning that alarm bells should be based on human cases and clusters and the key is surveillance and sharing of data. However, as Fraser had previously noted, there are limitations, especially given that for many years there was reluctance to acknowledge clusters of infections because of the fear of escalating the WHO alert levels and the resulting consequences. In terms of surveillance and response, it is of course very useful to know what viruses are out there, but it is promptness that is critical. To contain an epidemic at its source, there is a window of days in which to intervene. Once the epidemic gets going, the scale of the problem will double every week. The most suitable response would be based on the timely reporting of cases.

Fraser believes that pre-pandemic vaccine strain selection is the crux of the argument. Timely development of vaccines could be transformative. Vaccine seed stocks can speed this up, but there are other rate-limiting steps, especially international agreements on the regulation and conduct of human trials. He also believes that the objectives should be to:

- prioritize strains with evidence of infection and transmission;
- cover antigen space, and monitor antigenic drift;
- plug gaps in surveillance;
- make more/faster seed stocks (Dormitzer et al., 2013)?

Fraser concluded with the following:

- The direct benefits for enhanced surveillance and model-based prediction of GoF experiments with PPP should not be overstated.
- The indirect benefits of basic science are likely huge, but the rationale for working with dangerous pathogens requires benefits that outweigh risks and opportunity costs.
- The benefits of GoF with PPP for pre-pandemic vaccine production should be probed in depth.
- The risks are real and present (Lipsitch and Inglesby, 2014).

A participant asked Fraser about what he would require to be confident about using data from GoF or other experiments in his modeling? He responded that the tools required for this lengthy, although worthwhile, journey must be available. The issue centers on the risk taken at the beginning of the journey. Earlier in the morning, Fineberg mentioned that, by their nature, pandemics provide many years to think about the tools but only infrequent and limited time to acutally test them. Weather forecasting has improved dramatically because weather forecasters can test their models daily and receive many complaints when they are wrong. The situation with pandemics is not like that.

Dr. Colin Russell of Cambridge University Infectious Diseases responded to the two previous presentations as the last speaker of Session 4. He noted that both of the previous speakers touched on the ability to predict risks for pandemic viruses and on the ability to produce vaccines in a timely manner, and to ensure that there are enough vaccines to go around and provide a chance to mitigate the early spread of disease. However, the more we learn about nature, the more we understand that there are a vast number of undescribed viruses out there, many known only through sequence data. He stated that genotype to phenotype prediction is one of the holy grails of influenza biology research. However, much more research is required to reach this goal. He referred to a National Institutes of Health workshop for which he was lead organizer in the fall of 2013 that brought together experts in virology, epidemiology, and other fields. It included participants from both sides of the GoF debate, and a key focus of the meeting was to rectify the limitations in the ability to make inferences about the phenotype of influenza viruses from genetic sequence data alone. A full report of this workshop was published in October (Russell et al., 2014). A key question in the discussions was whether the effects of mutations are dependent on the viruses in which they occur. A variety of studies suggest that the effects of particular mutations are strongly likely to depend on the genetic context in which they appear. First, in 2006 Jane Stevens, Ian Wilson, and others published a paper in the journal *Science* (Stevens et al., 2006) about GoF research, investigating the potential for a virus to switch receptor binding from avian-like to human-like. This work was among the first to demonstrate that single amino acid substitutions could cause such a switch. But the authors concluded that knowledge of genetic changes in circulating virus isolates by themselves obviously cannot be used to predict the impact of receptor binding specificity, let alone affect the results of future mutations (Stevens et al., 2006). It is worth bearing in mind, Russell stated, that there is a great degree of genetic diversity in the H5 virus. Other studies have found that the effects of mutations in other H5 viruses depend on the clade of H5 viruses in which the substitutions were produced. These residues alone cannot be used as reference points with respect to specificity in H5N1 strains, but when combined with other data, the presence or absence of these mutations can be informative. None of this should be in any way construed to undermine the value of the studies, but highlight the impressive need for further work. In short, Russell believes that, given the incomplete state of knowledge, there is a risk of overestimating what is known based on sequence data alone. Focusing too much attention on the presence or absence of particular mutations may cause other mutations or even other traits yet to be identified to be overlooked.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022849
MORENS_NIH_043853
REL0000479182

Gavin Huntley-Fenner asked the panel members what sort of public health system would be needed to justify the status quo and whether the risks and benefits of GoF research are balanced from this public health perspective. Fraser answered that transmissible viruses makes GoF research a very special case. In terms of general basic science, we never have to justify that to the same degree, luckily, because otherwise we would find it difficult to move forward. Basic science is a much broader portfolio where the risks are very small. The real crux of the GoF issue is separating out that very small number of experiments. We need a much wider frame for all experiments, where occupational health risks are not an order of magnitude higher than public health risks.

Laurie Garrett of the Council on Foreign Relations commented to Schultz-Cherry that her statement that the risk assessment model would be adjusted differently if H5 was in Canada speaks to the core of the whole problem. Risk is about rich people, which is about 5 percent of the global population, if that. She stated that we have never once delivered vaccine to poor people around the world for any epidemic/pandemic situation in the history of the planet, have never delivered clinical tools, and have never delivered diagnostic tools. Garrett had just come out of quarantine for Ebola, and there is nothing that can possibly be called a rapid diagnostic available for Ebola. So when the Council on Foreign Relations reviewed the whole question of GoF use and issued its memorandum to the White House (available at www.CFR.org), it concluded that the most fundamental problem is that the International Health Regulations have never been fully implemented. Garrett stated that none of the wealthy nations has assisted poor nations to raise them to capacity and that "none of the benefits will ever be available to the majority of planet Earth and none of them are getting the toolkit to minimize or mitigate risk. We are having a very American conversation that excludes the rest of the planet."

Schultz-Cherry responded that her remark about having H5 in Canada was designed to make people think about risk versus benefit and to reflect that doing more work can democratize the surveillance process. With more work, it could become cheap and easy to assess the threat of viruses. If this could be done, we could radically change the way we do surveillance worldwide and we would not have the same sort of geographic distributional issues that are of concern now.

Dr. Gregory Koblentz, George Mason University, asked Schultz-Cherry about the proven accuracy of the risk assessment tool used for selecting flu strains for yearly vaccines. She, in turn, called on Dr. Ruben Donis of the CDC to comment more about the risk assessment tool. Donis noted that the risk assessment tool is a product of the global community of scientists working on both human and animal health. It is a product of the realization of the gaps in surveillance that were noted in Fraser's presentation. It was developed to ensure that we have a comprehensive way of evaluating all the possible viruses that are circulating in animals that could reassort, recombine, and change the phenotype and eventually emerge as pandemic viruses. The tool attempts to develop a comprehensive review of all of the potential threats.

Via the web, Dr. Daniel Perez, University of Maryland, asked whether the potential of strains that resulted in past pandemics to affect humans would have been moderated if we had had the opportunity to sequence them. Fraser stated that understanding how a virus expands its host range from swine to humans requires a lot of information. The validation of the genotype to phenotype prediction tools really should address that question. Russell added that he did not think that having sequence information at the time of earlier pandemics would have forewarned of the emergence of those viruses, which again speaks to the incomplete nature of knowledge and the critical need for further work.

Another participant pointed out that there is probably a very large number of variables involved in understanding viral pathogenicity. Given the number of variables, is there much chance of doing anything useful? Russell and Fraser both agreed that this is a very complicated problem, which is why more experimental work is needed to help reduce the dimensionality. But what we currently know cannot help us very much in understanding what will occur in the next 5 years. However, science is an incremental process. The increases in understanding that have been achieved from the work that has been done so far have been helpful. In terms of translating directly into public health improvements, that is a pretty substantial leap to make. But saying we will not get there will not undermine science. Nevertheless, tools that can deal with perhaps thousands of genetic traits and phenotypes are needed. It is not about the mutations but rather about the function of the mutations. We could reach the state where we sufficiently understand the traits that a virus needs to adapt to humans and identify ways to test for those that are either independent of sequence or a metalevel of sequences.

Another participant made the point that had the 2009 pandemic strain been seen in animals instead of humans, it might have been falsely viewed as having low virulence and transmissibility and would have been discounted. Fraser agreed that the fact that our knowledge is incomplete right now creates a risk of discounting viruses that lack a certain number of substitutions when in fact we should be concerned about the risk.

Dr. Ron Fouchier, Erasmus MC, commented that he believes a lot is being asked of papers that were only published in 2012 and for which the follow-up work has been shut down twice for extended periods. This is work in which the phenotypes, not just the genotypes, are being studied. He agreed with Fraser that although he cannot yet predict phenotypes from genotypes, the assays produced by his work are being used to look at phenotypes in surveillance, which means a better job is already being done. He made a plea for more basic science to follow up on his work, which is still in the early stage. Fraser responded that the basic science is not under question. The question is: Should we be starting with experiments that have orders of magnitude higher risk than other work in the area?

Go to:

TREATMENT AND RESPONSE

Session 5, moderated by Baruch Fischhoff, consisted of a panel discussion with four speakers. Each panelist was given about 5

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022850
MORENS_NIH_043854
REL0000479182

minutes and then the session was opened up for discussion.

The first speaker was Philip Dormitzer, who described how GoF research and the regulation around research affect the real-world case of trying to apply virology to a public health situation. For the purpose of his talk, Dormitzer described the chronology for the production and delivery of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic vaccine, an "historical reminder," for which the response was the "fastest ever, but still came after the disease peaked" (Borse et al., 2013). In fact, an estimate published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (EID) showed that for every week of acceleration of vaccine supply, an additional 300,000 to 430,000 U.S. cases could have been prevented. Dormitzer explained that Novartis, in collaboration with the J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) and Synthetic Genomics Vaccines (SGVI), are now working together to establish a process for rapid generation of synthetic influenza viruses that includes GoF studies based on sequence motif data to guide the genetic assembly of the vaccine. For instance, the Novartis research team routinely screens for phenotypic traits of interest and can specifically remove or mutate strains with either polybasic cleavage sites in the hemagglutinins (HA) (found in highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses [HPAIV]) or neuraminidase (NA) gene markers of resistance. For that specific example, Dormitzer explained that the process from the identification of the relevant HA and NA sequences for the new influenza strain to the genetic identity confirmation of the vaccine virus lasted about 1 week. However, the next phase leading to the first large-scale clinical trial took months because of various well-intentioned regulations and policies to protect the food supply in the United States. Notably, because Novartis could not obtain a U.S. Department of Agriculture permit, this phase involved international research collaboration with Germany before taking the vaccine back to the United States, which unintentionally slowed down the human vaccine development. Under U.S. government regulations on select agents, vaccine development against HPAIV is counter-productive because "you can't really put an entire manufacturing facility under select agent conditions and still have a factory that can produce seasonal vaccines in an economically competitive way" and in a timely manner. Also, as Dormitzer pointed out, he "couldn't apply any of this [GoF research] technology." Therefore, if adaptation of vaccine virus to increase yield or more modern synthetic biology were captured by GoF regulations, then additional unintended impediments to timely vaccine supply could be created.

Next, Ralph Baric presented his view on the impact of GoF restrictions to the emerging coronavirus vaccine and therapeutic research. Baric started his talk by reiterating that no vaccine has been approved for MERS-CoV or SARS-CoV in the midst of an ongoing MERS-CoV outbreak. Baric explained how new restrictions reduce public health preparedness to respond to future SARS-like CoV outbreaks. He explained that the original vaccine target for the SARS-CoV outbreak 2002-2004 strain was 99 percent identical between human and civet (Ge et al., 2013). However, metagenomic sequencing showed that bat SARS-like CoV (SL-CoV) with 65 percent to 95 percent sequence homology, can constitute a large pool of strains with pandemic potential against which countermeasures need to be developed. To evaluate whether the existing vaccine and drugs work on these strains, Baric's team and others used two types of approaches. The first was based on the production of CoV pseudotypes coated with virus spike-like proteins that can potentially engage the human angiotensin converting enzyme II (ACE2), which is the SARS-CoV cellular receptor molecule. This method constitutes a safe and ethical research alternative approach. Similarly, chimeric recombinant viruses that encode spike-like proteins as part of the virus particle can also be used. While studies using pseudotypes and structure-based prediction confirmed the existence of a bat SL-CoV that can infect human cells, only studies using GoF chimeric virus identified an additional bat SL-CoV as a potential threat. Baric noted that both bat SL-CoV were less virulent in a mouse model. Importantly for public health implications, data further showed that existing vaccine and human monoclonal antibody therapy failed to protect against these two newly identified bat SL-CoVs, leading Baric to point out that "we are vulnerable" to SL-CoV bat strains that currently exist in nature. The second part of Baric's talk described how robust animal models are essential for vaccine/drug design, safety testing, and performance outcomes. He explained that SARS-CoV replicates poorly in mice (Frieman et al., 2012) and although his team and Subbarao's lab have developed mouse-adapted strains, the in vivo correlates of infection vary widely depending on the model used. For example, he described some collaborative work done on inbred and outbred mice demonstrating that in some cases the vaccine could have caused increased mortality in some individuals and emphasized the need for better animal models for SARS-CoV vaccine research. In the case of MERS-CoV, the epidemic is ongoing and no robust animal model exists because routine GOF studies, including passage in small animal models, have failed. Baric called for an immediate lifting of the restrictions on MERS-CoV research on animal model development. This was echoed by other participants during the final discussion. For example, Peter Hale of the Foundation for Vaccine Research stated that he thought the inclusion of the coronaviruses in the "pause" was "muddying the waters" and that he did not detect any enthusiasm among SARS and MERS investigators to increase their transmissibility. This point was also made strongly during the discussion following the session.

The next speaker was Dr. Jerry Weir from the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, whose team participates in the selection of strains for the yearly influenza vaccines and regulates viral vaccines to ensure that they are safe and efficacious for human use. Weir offered some comments about how the regulatory process views some of the experiments and techniques addressed by the symposium speakers. He stated that there are actually not very many, if any, regulatory issues associated with the type of virus manipulations that were under discussion (i.e., improved types of seed development, reverse genetics, manipulation of virus genomes to improve vaccine virus stability or performance). Manufacturers already licensed can submit a supplement to the license that is evaluated for using a fairly standard process. In lieu of giving examples of how GoF research can influence a process, Weir mentioned a few challenges that still remain in vaccine development for the influenza virus. In general, for the seasonal strain selection and the preparation of pandemic vaccine strains, the major challenge is the existence of very large gaps in our knowledge of how genotype sequences relate to phenotypic

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022851
MORENS_NIH_043855
REL0000479182

changes. Weir stated that strain prediction and selection remain a "guessing game … for which improvements are desperately needed." In addition, for other factors such as transmissibility or virulence, a lot is not known and improvements are also needed there. To complicate the matter, the incorporation of four, instead of three influenza strains in the seasonal vaccine is a challenge every year for the different players in the global community that pick the vaccine strains as well as the manufacturers who need to deliver the vaccines in a timely manner. For them the yields of vaccine viruses need to be improved with the challenge of limiting factors such as poorly growing strains among the four chosen. In his view, Weir believes that, as broadly defined, "GoF studies have had an enormous influence on how we develop vaccines over the years … and can help improve the process with the challenges that we still face."

The final speaker was Mark Denison, who explained his view of GoF studies in MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV countermeasure development and how oversight or regulation might be limiting. Denison reminded the audience about the basic research and ongoing challenges that remain in the development of therapeutics to SARS and MERS-CoVs, emphasizing, like other speakers, the need for in vivo and in vitro models to identify common mechanisms and determinants of resistance. He then moved to a case study involving GoF research and asked the audience whether they would consider giving or taking "a live vaccine with a virus that has an engineered increased mutation rate," for which only a few people raised their hands. The question was an introduction to a series of studies showing that CoVs, contrary to other viruses, express a proofreading exonuclease (ExoN) normally only found in bacteria and eukaryotes. When this ExoN was inactivated, the CoV mutation rate was increased by 20-fold. Normally, mutations allow tremendous variation in viral populations and presumably increase adaptation, fitness, virulence, and therefore public health risks. However, GoF studies demonstrated that SARS-CoV with the inactivated ExoN were less fit, attenuated in a mouse model of lethal SARS-CoV, could not compete with the wild-type virus, and could therefore be used as a target for therapeutics development. This work was also adapted to other RNA viruses with encouraging results. Denison used this case study to reflect on the implications of new regulations and guidelines if he wanted to create a mutated strain of a virus and test it in an animal model. In conclusion, Denison stated that he believes that because assumptions are usually wrong, GoF research that includes "passage for adaptation and resistance in in vitro and animal models are essential components of therapeutics development" and that to his knowledge no bioinformatics or predictive safer alternative approaches are effective to develop new countermeasures.

Following the panel member's presentations, there was discussion with the audience. Fraser asked Dormitzer how he would propose to reconcile, practically, the need to conduct very dangerous research without casting the net too wide. Dormitzer responded that what is first needed is a very clear and limited definition of the sorts of research that require particular attention. As Relman discussed, experiments that combine increased transmissibility, virulence, and and lack available countermeasures are very concerning. But we have to make sure that the definitions are not too broad so that they do not capture a lot of other work. Second, there needs to be a distinction between the highly diverse work performed for basic research and the much more restricted, but more urgent, work needed for vaccine development. A classic example is H5N1 vaccine development. There have been at least 26 H5N1 strains that have been attenuated all in the same way. But for the 27th one, the often months-long routine must be goone through again. We need clearly established, well-defined pathways to get vaccines quickly and not encumber the process with regulations.

Relman also stated that he does not think that there is a major question about the value of MERS and SARS research, even that research that currently falls under the rubric of GoF. Restrictions do, in fact, hamper the quest to develop countermeasures, etc. What he thinks is a more interesting question is whether there is a very discreet and specific set of experiments with MERS and SARS that you might not want to see undertaken. For example, would it be appropriate to deliberately start with a highly virulent human isolate of MERS and then attempt to add to that much enhanced human-to-human transmissibility by the respiratory route? Baric responded that he did not know of anyone doing transmissibility studies with the human coronaviruses. Unlike flu, there are currently no small animal models suitable for MERS or SARS transmissibility assays. This is mostly due to receptor incompatibility between the human and any small animal models. Optimization assays to enhance virus transmissibility between ferrets, for instance, would probably decrease the ability of that modified virus to bind to the human ACE2 receptor. Relman reformulated the question to include the possibility of using transgenic ferrets with the human receptor, but Baric explained that the human receptor itself is not sufficient and that other proteins are essential for viral transmissibility and, therefore, the results in transgenic models would not be predictable.

Denison added that nobody would have as a goal or would support trying to increase virulence and transmissibility of MERS or SARS. That is why he recommends the use of a case-based approach that looks at how we really do science. Denison shared his approach when sending a proposal through study sessions or review process at a funding institution. For him, instead of trying to define "boundaries of absolute," the real question should always be, "What is the best approach to answer that question?" Then, depending on the stage of the review process, the response should be iterative to be adequately addressed.

Inglesby asked Dormitzer whether the annual process of production of flu vaccine relies on research using highly transmissible and highly virulent strains. Dormitzer responded that this is not the case and that the goal is quite opposite—to take a strain found in nature and transform it into something that can be manufactured efficiently by increasing its growth rate in cell culture or eggs. Inglesby then asked whether virulence and transmissibility are traits that can be distinguished from increased growth capability. Dormitzer stated that there is precedent that shows that adapting viruses to grow better in cell culture does not, in general, increase their virulence or transmissibility, whereas passaging from animal to animal often does. He stated that we also need to distinguish between two things: the need for very rapid production of new antigenic variants, which should start on the day it is

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022852
MORENS_NIH_043856
REL0000479182

found that there is a new variant causing disease, and the development of the vaccine backbone, which could be used in multiple variants and which you do not want to take forever. It is not the same issue when facing an emergency.

Dr. Simon Wain-Hobson, Institut Pasteur, echoed Denison's presentation by citing work done on polio by John Holland 15 years ago that showed that when chemical mutagenesis is combined with a rapidly evolving RNA virus such as polio, the fitness of the virus goes down. Several members of the panel agreed. However, Denison raised the issue of perception in the current environment and under the current policy circumstances. Such proposals might not necessarily be vetted even though most of the time we can not know the answers until the experiments are conducted.

Another questioner from the webcast asked Dormitzer whether, in his opinion, GoF research is essential for future development of intervention strategies against various pathogens. Dormitzer responded that he thinks it depends on whether you are talking about the short- or long-term. He stated that GoF research is not going to help pick next year's flu vaccine, but if one is making viruses for use in manufacturing and a certain genetic motif that correlated with high transmissibility is known, then one could make sure that the motif is not included in the vaccine strain. GoF research has utility for such purposes. The other thing is that vaccine manufacturers are increasingly figuring out how to take genetic data and use it to predict what they want to make. That would be a genuine utility if it could be done. The question is whether we can do that kind of science in a way that does not create more problems than it solves. There is potential for GoF research to improve vaccine production, but it is not today except for limited instances; it has long-term potential for this purpose as long as the work can be done without inordinate risk. Denison asked whether any "bad" GoF experiments were performed to discover the polybasic cleavage site associated with high virulence. Dormitzer listed what is believed to have led to this discovery, including studies on correlations between the presence of these sites and clinical observation of virulence in birds; discovery of plausible mechanisms looking at cleavage proteins expressed in different cells; and loss-of-function and GoF studies to make sure that the gene identified is the correct one. Denison's point was that a series of experiment led to that conclusion.

It was clear, however, that there is a substantial disagreement over the value of GoF research for vaccine development. Lamb, in a later session (Session 8), stated that he thought we should modify the mantra that GoF research is useful for vaccine and antiviral drug development. He thinks that this point is overused and oversold. Hale also commented during the final discussion that he agreed with Lamb, we do need to modify the mantra that this research will help develop vaccines and antivirals. He said that he and his Foundation fully endorse that sentiment. It is an argument that is made over and over again without evidence to substantiate it. He believes that in terms of development of better vaccines, GoF research has little or no benefit, and if there is any benefit, then it is tiny and way down the road. In the meantime, he said, it is not worth the risk and there are other priorities. Dormitzer responded to the latter comment and acknowledged that the community of people who make vaccines is divided just as much of the symposium audience was divided. He stated that the basis for that division is informative. Flu vaccines today are still made by very, very old techniques. One looks at what is spreading, sees if it has changed, and then picks the strain. There is not a lot of basic science in this; rather it is 1960s science. In 2009 we were not able to get the H1N1 vaccine out until after the outbreak had peaked, and many people have commented that the current flu vaccines, although somewhat effective, are not good enough. A lot of people who work on vaccines think we need to do things better. One way to do things better is to take advantage of the available information, particularly sequence-based information, so we can do things faster and make vaccines better. Information from GoF research can contribute to identifying risks earlier so countermeasures can be taken earlier. Dormitzer said he does not think it is the case that GoF research is essential to the current vaccine system as it is generally practiced today, but it is not useless. It is clearly part of the trend to understand and predict what can be done better and to help respond quickly. That does not mean it is open season to do what you want and forget the risks. A balance is needed. But he was firm in his statement that the vaccine producers are not universally of the opinion that there is no use for GoF research.

Koblentz asked whether the coronavirus researchers had a sense and could comment on why MERS and SARS were included in the "pause" on GoF along with influenza. Denison believes that, despite the circumstances, the inclusion of SARS- and MERS-CoV in the "pause" demonstrates that this is not about one virus but more about the issue of how we address critical questions in science and what constitutes appropriate review and safety among the different research institutions. He believes that whatever the question asked, whether about replication or virulence and transmissibility, the science should be the same and should follow an iterative process that incorporates risks, milestones, and points to change along the way.

As a follow-up from Relman's question on transmissibility in MERS and SARS animal models, Koblentz asked Baric to clarify which set of experiments he would use to study transmissibility. Baric explained that many variables are needed to make a model to enhance transmissibility, but if he had the perfect model to do these experiments he would not do them. Later during the discussion, prompted by Inglesby, Baric added that because the CoV interaction barriers are species specific, the only real absolute model that could be used would be human, so he certainly would not do the experiment.

Fraser asked Denison to clarify what he meant when he said that no one would want to increase the pathogenesis or transmissibility of MERS and, therefore, that the regulation should not apply to MERS and SARS research, especially because this is what the debate is about. Denison explained that he thinks that increasing transmissibility of human coronaviruses is not a goal. He then described the importance of research on wild-type or genetically modified animal models or cell cultures to understand determinants of pathogenesis or virulence factors. No one has the goal to increase these characteristics, but researchers need to be able to study the virus or they would need to rely on epidemiology and surveillance, which are not adequate to answer the question. Denison also stated that to his knowledge there is no other approach to develop countermeasures and vaccines.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022853
MORENS_NIH_043857
REL0000479182

Richard Roberts, New England Biolabs, asked whether experiments on dangerous traits that exist in highly pathogenic and virulent strains could also be done on strains that have already been incapacitated in some way. Denison agreed that on a case-by-case basis, if it is possible, then a safer approach is always preferred, but that it depends on the genetic background of the strain of interest. As an example, Denison explained that sometimes a certain type of loss- or gain-of-function experiment is undertaken on BSL-2 strains that are 90 percent identical to more virulent strains, but that the small genetic background differences and therefore structure can greatly influence the outcome of the experiment. When one has strains that are not genetically identical or from the same clade, it may not be possible to make the right determination without doing the experiments.

A participant from the Department of State noted that although there may be ways to do the research in a safer manner, Denison had just argued that in a competitive environment the research question should be answered in the best and most direct way to get funding. The participant wondered whether, in this competitive context, a researcher would prefer the safest, but perhaps more indirect, option assuming it would get at the question. Denison commented that sometimes there are safer options such as when he used a mouse model for hepatitis virus to identify determinant proteins such as those for proofreading. This approach is of public health importance because it proves that certain mechanisms might be a useful target across multiple strains, including those we have not yet tested, such as the basic cleavage site. Returning to his earlier comment about the funding, Denison explained that professors not only try to educate students to do the best science in the best way, but also ask them about finding alternatives that will eventually answer the question in a less direct way. Dormitzer added that although one may get NIH funding through a grant that incorporates safety considerations, institutional safety boards and questionnaires about dual use research of concern are procedures already in place to make sure it is not only the most direct way to a scientific answer taken, but also that safety is considered.

Each of the panel members was then given an opportunity for closing remarks. Dormitzer's closing remarks were that he believes that there is long-term potential in GoF research. He believes that we must be very careful with any sort of restrictions or regulations to make sure we do not inadvertently capture a lot of work that is not only good for basic science, but also a core part of the public health response. He stated that as a practitioner of vaccine development, he has realized that there really are road blocks that were never intended by the people who drafted the restrictions.

Baric agreed with those comments and affirmed the importance of reverse genetics and GoF research in understanding viral pathogenesis as well as vaccine and therapeutic design. NIH should be very careful about delineating the boundaries of the restrictions to be placed on the research community because there could be dire consequences if these restrictions are too broad.

Weir affirmed one of his earlier points: if we had great vaccines for all of these agents, we might be having a different discussion, but the fact is that we do not.

Denison closed by proposing an iterative process whereby scientists do a review along the way. For critical pathogens of high human consequence there should be a mechanism that allows for a case-based, iterative approach that identifies problems along the way. Investigators need to have their research supported and be allowed to integrate best practices when doing GoF research.

Copyright 2015 by the National Academy of Sciences. All rights reserved.

Bookshelf ID: NBK285583

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Wed, 6 Oct 2021 2:44:48 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 6 Oct 2021 2:41:17 AM -0400
Subject: RE: 3rd batch of emails part 1 of 2
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6 Gerald Jerry Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
CC: Robert Kessler b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Attachments: Fwd_ FW_ (FYI only)_ Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview.eml (94.5 KB).msg; RE_ !!!!!!!!!!! FW_ CNN_ Ex-CDC head claims without evidence Covid-....eml (69.9 KB).msg; RE_ Washington Examiner_ WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab ....eml (51.6 KB).msg; RE_ Washington Examiner_ WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab ....eml (40.4 KB).msg; Re_ Yet another article.eml (37.8 KB).msg; RE_ Yet another article.eml (40.1 KB).msg; Yet another article.eml (16.9 KB).msg; Re_ ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants.eml (21.6 KB).msg; Re_ ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants.eml (20.6 KB).msg; Re_ ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants.eml (17.2 KB).msg; RE_.eml (16.0 KB).msg; RE_ NY Post_ Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more ....eml (132 KB).msg; RE_ Briefing Tony.eml (19.2 KB).msg; Briefing Tony.eml (19.0 KB).msg; Untitled attachment 08781.eml (17.9 KB).msg; RE_ NY Post_ Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more ....eml (141 KB).msg; RE_ NY Post_ Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more ....eml (135 KB).msg; Re_ u will love this.... FW_ AP_ The superspreaders behind top COVID....eml (60.9 KB).msg; RE_ u will love this.... FW_ AP_ The superspreaders behind top COVID....eml (48.6 KB).msg

---

Resending the 3rd batch of emails in 2 parts. This is the first part 1st Jan 2021 to 1st April 2021

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:55 AM
To: 'David Morens b6 b6 >; Gerald "Jerry" Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Cc: 'Robert Kessler b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 b6
Subject: 3rd batch of emails

In this lot (1st Jan to 1st July 2021 includes emails where:

- You both make political comments and criticize the Trump admin, Collins etc.
- I call Peter Navarro an 'idiot' or something
- I call Rand Paul some slightly offensive name
- Discussion of gain of function attacks
- Various comments from me about WHO work etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Thu, 23 May 2024 9:15:28 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 23 May 2024 9:14:45 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: kuuipo9 b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6

Thanks for the note David – it will be worth going through all of the emails that they raised in their report and in the hearing as examples of alleged illegal behavior. They have been taken out of context, and it's quite likely that, as in this case, once the email chain is viewed, it will be clear that there is no illegal or immoral action.

From watching the first half of the hearing, you came across as a person who was embarrassed by using 'dark humor' and 'snarky language' in private emails to colleagues but never expected them to be shown publicly. At the same time you came across as someone who had a different interpretation of the meaning of NIH business, that is likely defensible given the unusual job description you have as advisor to NIAID Director.

The key issue is that as Sr. Advisor to the NIAID Director, you had no employment-related business in overseeing any of my grants, and by the time the grant was terminated on April 2020, all decisions on reinstatement were directed by NIH O/D, and outside of even Dr. Fauci's control. It is therefore illogical to presume that any discussions you may (or in this case may not) have had with me about ideas on how to reinstate a grant being controlled by NIH O/D were part of your job.

I'll be in the office today with Staff meetings and Board meetings and we'll all be thinking of you.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: kuuipo9 b6
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

MORENS_NIH_047057
REL0000479184

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:13 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:16 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image005.png

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jeffrey Sturchio** b6
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 10:32 AM
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich b6, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens < b6

LOL!

JLS

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

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email b6

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

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

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

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

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

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

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

US RTK

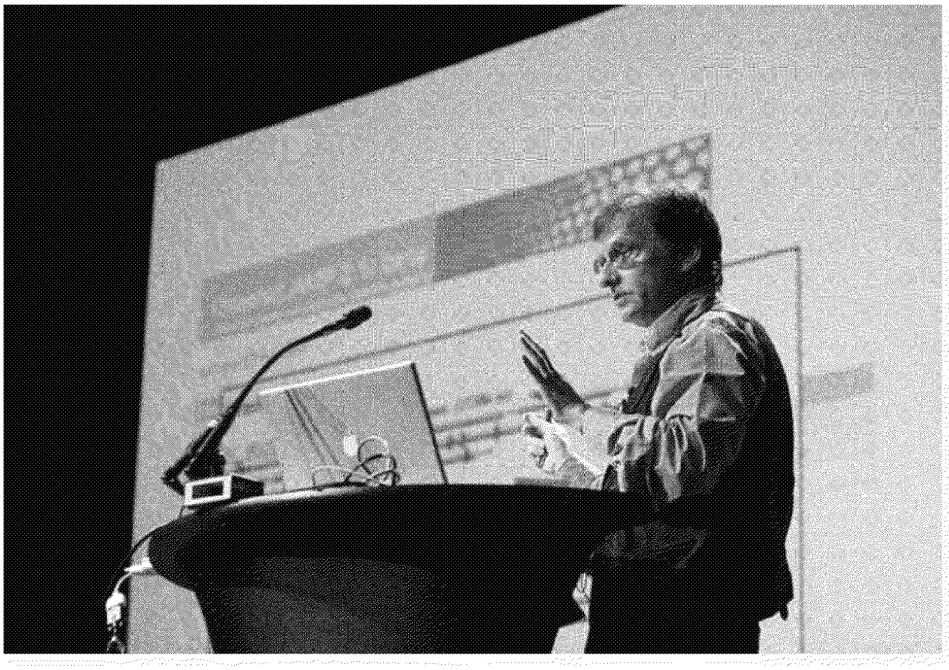
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Print Email Share Tweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002946
MORENS_NIH_009462
REL0000479185

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 Medicin*e," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

≤

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

Date: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 10:19:06 AM -0400

Sent: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 10:18:31 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

From: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6] >

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>;

CC: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6]>; Karen Goraleski [b6]>; Jacobson, Julie [b6] >; Stephen Popper [b6]>; [b6] [b6] [b6] Dan Bausch [b6] [b6] Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]>;

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

David, Jerry, et al,

I'm fully supportive of a follow-up article in the AJTMH on COVID origins. The sooner the better. I suggest working, despite the craziness, on a fully reasoned and rational discussion, admitting uncertainty, but not implying that uncertainty supports a possibility with no scientific support. After the long, thoughtful piece last year, we might go with a short editorial format (~1000 words) this year, but alternatively this piece could again be a longer Perspective if this seems appropriate. I'm happy to help with writing if desired, but of course I'm not an expert in this area, and we have many experts involved.

Regards,
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] gov>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6] Karen Goraleski [b6]>; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6]>; Jacobson, Julie [b6] [b6]>; Stephen Popper [b6]>; [b6] [b6] [b6] Dan Bausch [b6] [b6]>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6] [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]
Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Jerry, i think that's a good idea. I floated the thought of something similar a few days ago

Let's hear again from Karen, Phil, Julie, Joel, Dan Christine and the others. This is doable altho the details are to be determined.
d

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

On Jun 4, 2021, at 17:08, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> wrote:

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <b6>; Karen Goraleski <k<b6>g>; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <b6>; Jacobson, Julie <b6>; Stephen Popper <b6>; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <b6>; christine- <b6> Dan Bausch <b6>
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Peter Daszak <b6> Rich Roberts <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Dear ASTMH colleagues,

As of today, shockingly, our own Charlie Calisher, who has been involved in so-called GOF research, and who coauthored last year's ASTMH paper, and who has been an esteemed colleague of mine for 45+ years, told the press in two separate interviews that he now thinks the lab leak theory is possible. Peter Palese, an esteemed researcher who has done and been accused of GOF research today said the same. I am very depressed by this, as I know these men and their scientific creds and their integrity.

What is going on?

Possibility no. 1: I am totally crazy and the whole world is a conspiracy that I am blind to.

Possibility no. 2: this is a McCarthy-era witch hunt story and good people are being drawn into it from fear, moral confusion, or a weak inability to evaluate scientific evidence I (I rather hope it's not the latter)….

Before deciding on which of these two, I would recommend seeing the play, or more conveniently and quickly the movie made from it, of Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era classic "The Crucible". I went through all of this as a kid. This whole thing is to me déjà vu all over again.

I don't know what, if anything, ASTMH can or should do, but let us at least agree that this is one of the most dangerous attacks on science in memory.

Surely we should have a voice in some sphere.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019534
MORENS_NIH_039123
REL0000479186

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
b6 ssistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

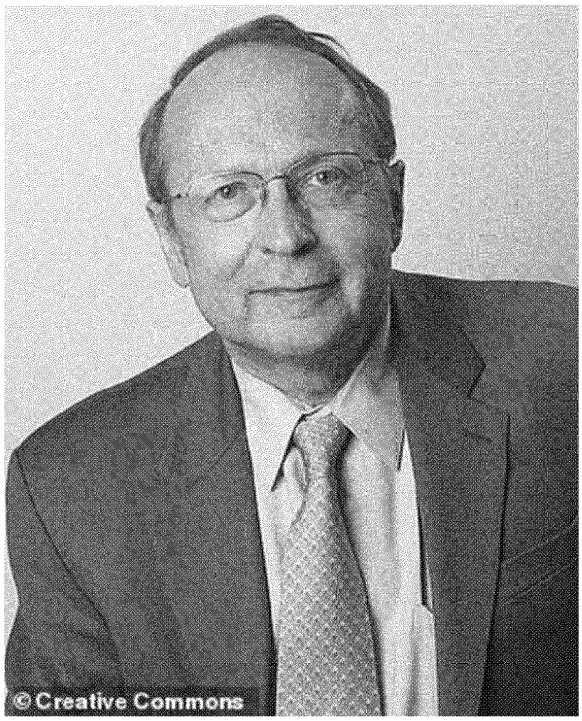
Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents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



Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

- **EXCLUSIVE: Peter Palese has U-turned after claiming virus was natural in origin**
- **New York microbiologist signed letter in Lancet denouncing all other theories**
- **'Bullying' letter has been described as ostracizing dissenting voices in science**

By Joe Davies For Mailonline
Published: 12:11 EDT, 4 June 2021 | Updated: 13:46 EDT, 4 June 2021



Dr Peter Palese, a professor of microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, has U-turned after previously supporting a letter denying that COVID-19 could've leaked from a Wuhan lab

One of the 27 Covid lab leak deniers who signed a letter denouncing the theory that the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan has now called for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origins, MailOnline can reveal.

Dr Peter Palese, a microbiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, signed the letter in the Lancet in February last year claiming the virus could only have been natural in origin and to suggest otherwise would create 'fear, rumors, and prejudice'.

The 'bullying' letter was criticized by experts for ostracizing anyone offering different opinions on the virus' origins, dismissing them as conspiracy theorists.

It is only now, nearly 16 months after that letter was published in the world-renowned medical journal, that the theory Covid was accidentally leaked from a lab in Wuhan is being looked at seriously.

US President **Joe Biden** last week ordered intelligence agencies to launch a probe into whether Covid was man-made after all. But **China** immediately hit back and called the suggestion a 'conspiracy'.

And now Professor Palese, 77, has made a significant U-turn, admitting all theories on how Covid came about now need proper investigating.

He told MailOnline: 'I believe a thorough investigation about the origin of the Covid-19 virus is needed.

'A lot of disturbing information has surfaced since the Lancet letter I signed, so I want to see answers covering all questions.'

Asked how he was originally approached to sign the letter and what new information had come to light specifically, Professor Palese declined to comment.

Palese spoke out as America's leading pandemic expert Dr. Anthony Fauci continues to face fevered calls to resign after emails revealed that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.

The emails also showed he communicated with Dr. Peter Daszak, the head of a non-profit that funneled U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Biden through his support behind the embattled expert on Friday, saying: 'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci.'

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019537
MORENS_NIH_039126
REL0000479186

- Luis Enjuanes, National Center of Biotechnology, Madrid
- Jeremy Farrar, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Hume Field, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Josie Golding, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Alexander Gorbalenya, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands
- Bart Haagmans, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- James Hughes, Emory University, Atlanta
- William Karesh, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Gerald Keusch, Boston University
- Sai Kit Lam, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Juan Lubroth, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy
- John Mackenzie, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
- Larry Madoff, Massachusetts Medical School
- Jonna Mazet, University of California at Davis
- Peter Palese, Icahn School of Medicine, New York
- Stanley Perlman, University of Iowa
- Leo Poon, The University of Hong Kong
- Bernard Roizman, University of Chicago
- Linda Saif, The Ohio State University
- Kanta Subbarao, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Mike Turner, The Wellcome Trust, London

The lab-leak theory was bolstered last week after it was revealed three workers at the Wuhan lab were hospitalized in November, 2019, months before Covid was first discovered in China.

China claims the virus was transmitted to humans from an animal host, with bats and pangolins both named as potential sources. Many scientists agree that is the most likely theory.

Professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge Ravi Gupta, a member of Nervtag, said the theory has not yet been investigated with 'scientific rigor'.

He told **The Telegraph**: 'The possibility was not adequately explored due to lack of access to primary records by the WHO group. Lab leak has not been scientifically rejected as a cause using [the] scientific rigor that one would expect.'

A soon to be published report by a team of British and Norwegian experts suggests it is possible to trace the creation of the virus to research in China that began in 2008.

Professor David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, said the theory needs to be investigated by an international consortium of scientists in collaboration with the UN.

He said: 'Ideally, an investigation would rely on an international consortium of scientists under the auspices of many national academies of science working in partnership, in collaboration with an international governance entity, the UN Secretary General's Office, or something of that sort.'

And Harvard epidemiologist Professor Marc Lipsitch said a lab escape scenario 'remains plausible enough that it should be looked into rigorously'.

He told the paper: 'This is not a fringe position, given that multiple European governments and Dr Tedros have said the same.'

He said that while scientists are not saying a lab origin is more likely than a natural one, a thorough investigation is needed to reveal the cause of the pandemic.

As Dr Daszak's links to the Wuhan lab become clearer, more questions are being asked about his influence over the WHO team that went to China in January and stayed for four weeks searching for answers.

The team was met with resistance in China. Authorities there made them quarantine for two weeks in Wuhan and barred two members completely after they tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.

But critics say the WHO researchers were too cozy with Chinese authorities, who are desperate not to shoulder the blame for a worldwide death toll now approaching 3.6 million.

They claim its members may have been influenced by a tour they took round a 'propaganda museum' which described Wuhan's fight against the virus and the leading role taken by President Xi Jinping.

While China has tried to insist the virus originated elsewhere, academics, politicians and the media have begun to contemplate the possibility it escaped from the WIV - raising suspicions that Chinese officials simply hid evidence of the early spread

The Wuhan Institute of Virology is about 20 miles from the Huanan Seafood Market where the first coronavirus cases are reported to have occurred

In recent weeks, the lab-escape theory has gained ground. Already British intelligence officials, who are helping the US search for the cause of the pandemic that has cost nearly 600,000 American lives, are said to be leaning towards the man-made scenario.

Last week MailOnline revealed two leading scientists had found 'unique fingerprints' in Covid samples that could only

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019538
MORENS_NIH_039127
REL0000479186

have come from lab manipulation.
British Professor Angus Dalgleish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sørensen, wrote that they have had 'prima facie evidence of retro-engineering in China' for a year — but were ignored by academics and major journals.

Did Covid originate in Chinese lab?

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been collecting numerous coronaviruses from bats ever since the SARS outbreak in 2002.
They have also published papers describing how these bat viruses have interacted with human cells.
US Embassy staff visited the lab in 2018 and 'had grave safety concerns' over the protocols which were being observed at the facility.
The lab is just eight miles from the Huanan wet market which is where the first cluster of infections erupted in Wuhan.
The market is just a few hundred yards from another lab called the Wuhan Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (WHCDC).
The WHCDC kept disease-ridden animals in its labs, including some 605 bats.
Those who support the theory argue that Covid-19 could have leaked from either or both of these facilities and spread to the wet market.
Most argue that this would have been a virus they were studying rather than one which was engineered.
Last year a bombshell paper from the Beijing-sponsored South China University of Technology recounted how bats once attacked a researcher at the WHCDC and 'blood of bat was on his skin.'
The report says: 'Genome sequences from patients were 96% or 89% identical to the Bat CoV ZC45 coronavirus originally found in Rhinolophus affinis (intermediate horseshoe bat).'
It describes how the only native bats are found around 600 miles away from the Wuhan seafood market and that the probability of bats flying from Yunnan and Zhejiang provinces was minimal.
In addition there is little to suggest the local populace eat the bats as evidenced by testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors.
Instead the authors point to research being carried out within 300 yards at the WHCDC.
One of the researchers at the WHCDC described quarantining himself for two weeks after a bat's blood got on his skin, according to the report. That same man also quarantined himself after a bat urinated on him.
And he also mentions discovering a live tick from a bat - parasites known for their ability to pass infections through a host animal's blood.
'The WHCDC was also adjacent to the Union Hospital (Figure 1, bottom) where the first group of doctors were infected during this epidemic.' The report says.
'It is plausible that the virus leaked around and some of them contaminated the initial patients in this epidemic, though solid proofs are needed in future study.'
Professor Dalgleish, 71, a vaccine researcher and professor of oncology at St George's Hospital, last year struggled to find a publisher for his paper suggesting the virus's spike protein contains artificially inserted sequences.
He said the research was shunned by the scientific community, who did not want to threaten China or be seen to be agreeing with President Donald Trump — who was a big advocate for the theory the virus was leaked from a lab at the time.
The oncologist said: 'The changes required to infect humans are extremely unlikely to have occurred naturally.'
Professor Dalgleish — who ran for Parliament as a UKIP candidate in 2015 — said the President's use of the terms 'Wuhan flu' and 'China virus' damaged scientific debate on the subject.
He told The Times: 'I was basically ostracized. I was fearful — really frightened by the way I was being treated. I was told I was not an expert on coronaviruses and I should just shut up.
'We couldn't believe people with whom we'd collaborated and published papers with in the past would shun us — I was warned I was out of my depth and I shouldn't get into this and I'd make a fool of myself.'
And just last week President Joe Biden ordered another look at the theory as part of a wide-ranging intelligence investigation into the pandemic's origins. He felt it so urgent that he put a 90-day deadline for a conclusion.
Emails from Dr Anthony Fauci, Mr Biden's chief medical advisor, show that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.
Fauci says those emails, obtained by Buzzfeed, have been taken out of context.
But he did U-turn about where the virus may have originated this week, saying 'you never know'.
One of them was from Dr Daszak, who thanked Dr Fauci for pushing back on the man-made theory.
In April, Dr Drazak wrote: 'I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for Covid-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Even WHO's Ethiopian director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the report was not extensive enough and more work needed to be done to discover the cause of Covid.
'As far as WHO is concerned, all hypotheses remain on the table,' he said.
'This report is a very important beginning, but it is not the end.'

America is looking at the theory seriously, leading to China hitting out at the 'dark history' of the US intelligence community after President Biden's probe was announced.
Lijian Zhao, foreign ministry spokesman who has been Beijing's point-man in trying to pin blame for the pandemic outside the country's borders, accused the US of trying to shift blame away from its own high Covid case and death counts - and suggested security services may be involved in a cover-up.
Meanwhile Hu Xijin, editor of the state mouthpiece Global Times newspaper, accused Biden of trying to discredit a WHO investigation which concluded that a lab leak is 'unlikely' — although critics have previously blasted that report as a China-centric whitewash.
China's American embassy also hit out, accusing Biden and his security services of being 'fixated on political manipulation and (the) blame game' in a statement on its website.
No10 officials have called for investigators to probe all theories as to how the Covid pandemic began.
Dominic Cummings this week revealed the PM held meetings when the crisis first began to discuss whether it had 'escaped' from a laboratory and whether the disease had been 'engineered'.

The Lancet letter in full: 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19'

We are public health scientists who have closely followed the emergence of 2019 novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and are deeply concerned about its impact on global health and wellbeing.
We have watched as the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China, in particular, have worked diligently and effectively to rapidly identify the pathogen behind this outbreak, put in place significant measures to reduce its impact, and share their results transparently with the global health community. This effort has been remarkable.
We sign this statement in solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak.
We are all in this together, with our Chinese counterparts in the forefront, against this new viral threat.
The rapid, open, and transparent sharing of data on this outbreak is now being threatened by rumours and misinformation around its origins.
We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
Scientists from multiple countries have published and analysed genomes of the causative agent, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and they overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife, as have so many other emerging pathogens.
This is further supported by a letter from the presidents of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and by the scientific communities they represent.
Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumours, and prejudice that jeopardise our global collaboration in the fight against this virus.
We support the call from the Director-General of WHO to promote scientific evidence and unity over misinformation and conjecture.
We want you, the science and health professionals of China, to know that we stand with you in your fight against this virus.
We invite others to join us in supporting the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of Wuhan and across China. Stand with our colleagues on the frontline!
We speak in one voice. To add your support for this statement, sign our letter online. LM is editor of ProMED-mail. We declare no competing interests.

Sen. Rand Paul says Fauci's emails paint a 'disturbing picture' about what he knew about work inside the Wuhan lab

Sen. **Rand Paul** continued his blitz on Dr. **Anthony Fauci** in the wake of Fauci's email dump, telling Fox that Fauci knew the US was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan even though he continues to deny it.
The Republican from **Kentucky** told Fox Thursday night that Fauci's emails 'tell me early on that he was very worried' before the pandemic even started.
'There's a disturbing picture. He gets an email or he gets notification of what's going on in Wuhan and immediately sends something to his assistant saying, "We must meet immediately." And in the subject line it says gain of function research in Wuhan.'
While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.
The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.
'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.
Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.

Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.
In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'
He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'
This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.
The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'
Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.
During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'
Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'
'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.
Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'
Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.
Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.
Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.
Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.
During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.
Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.
'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.
The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.
Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.
British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019541
MORENS_NIH_039130
REL0000479186

Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 8:47:01 AM -0400
Subject: FW: NY Post: Acting OMB head won't say if Biden budget will fund Wuhan lab
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
To: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] >; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6] >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
[b6] assistant: Whitney Robinson)
[b6]
[b6]

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



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 11:35 PM
Subject: NY Post: Acting OMB head won't say if Biden budget will fund Wuhan lab

Acting OMB head won't say if Biden budget will

fund Wuhan lab

By Samuel Chamberlain
June 9, 2021 | 8:01pm | Updated



Office of Management and Budget (OMB) acting director Shalanda Young was noncommittal when questioned if Biden's proposed budget will include funding for research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Greg Nash / Pool via CNP / Splas

The acting head of the White House budget office declined to tell lawmakers Wednesday whether President Biden's proposed budget would include funding for research carried out by the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China.

Under questioning from House Budget Committee ranking member Jason Smith (R-Mo.), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) acting director Shalanda Young repeatedly deferred to an ongoing 90-day review of the origins of the coronavirus pandemic being carried out by the intelligence community.

"Over the past few weeks, it has become increasingly evident that COVID-19 originated from a lab in Wuhan, China," Smith said at one point before asking Young, "What are you doing to get to the bottom of the clear link between federal funding and the Wuhan lab?"

After Young deferred once again to the review, Smith said: "So let me ask you this, can you commit that American dollars will never be used to fund such research going forward from this budget?"

"Congressman, I started my career at NIH [the National Institutes of Health]," Young answered. "I would never, you know, make that commitment, as someone who believes we need to be led by science, and we certainly need to wait [for] this review before we jump to conclusions."

There is a growing belief that the virus leaked accidentally from the Wuhan Institute of Virology into the 11 million-strong population of Wuhan, touching off the worst pandemic in a century. Republicans in Congress have focused their scrutiny on the lab's research into bat coronaviruses, some of which was funded by an NIH grant funneled through New York City-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.

Security personnel keep watch outside the Wuhan Institute of Virology. President Biden ordered the intelligence community to review all evidence related to the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.REUTERS

White House chief medical adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci told a House Appropriations subcommittee last month that the NIH funding commitment to the Wuhan lab was "about $600,000 over a period of five years."

However, internal NIH emails obtained last week by the conservative group Judicial Watch indicate that the lab actually received approximately $750,000 in grant money over an initial five-year period, with another $750,000 allocated for a subsequent six-year period.

In total, EcoHealth was to receive about $7.4 million over more than a decade from NIH to carry out a study titled,

"Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence". The NIH emails indicate the Wuhan Institute of Virology was one of many sites across Asia where research was carried out.
In April of last year, NIH pulled the plug on the remaining grant money allocated to EcoHealth. It was not immediately clear whether any of that funding would be restored.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020189
MORENS_NIH_040713
REL0000479190

Date: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:19:06 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:16:12 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

Can't believe Navarro's still banging on about it.

He's a particularly nefarious character, but we have to remember that although he has a Ph.D, it's in economics, not virology or ecology, so he really hasn't got a clue when it comes to how a virus emerges....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Fwd: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Date: Thu, May 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Subject: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin
https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
To: David Morens <b6> <b6>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:19 PM
Subject: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin
https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

Skip to main content

FactCheck.org® A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center

Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin

By Jessica McDonald

Posted on May 19, 2022

SciCheck Digest

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

Full Story

It’s not known how SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19,

originated. But many scientists suspect the virus "spilled over" into humans from an animal. There is no evidence the virus was created in a lab, let alone as part of any U.S.-funded research.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newsmax shared its interview with Navarro on Facebook, where it received

more than 30,000 views in two days.

Fauci Has No Connection to Pandemic Virus

Navarro's statements are reminiscent of those from other Republicans, including Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who have at times also falsely insinuated that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology could have led to the creation of SARS-CoV-2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

man has accused the other of lying.

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

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

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

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

Sources

McDonald, Jessica. "The Facts – and Gaps – on the Origin of the Coronavirus." FactCheck.org. 25 Jun 2021.

Holmes, Edward C. et al. "The origins of SARS-CoV-2: A critical review." Cell. 18 Aug 2021.

Robertson, Lori. "The Wuhan Lab and the Gain-of-Function Disagreement." FactCheck.org. 21 May 2021.

McDonald, Jessica. "Republicans Spin NIH Letter About Coronavirus Gain-of-Function Research." FactCheck.org. 26 Oct 2021.

Collins, Francis S. "Statement on Misinformation about SARS-CoV-2 Origins." 20 Oct 2021.

Stracqualursi, Veronica. "Fauci says 'no' to serving under Donald Trump should he win a second term." CNN. 16 May 2022.

"Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., NIAID Director." NIAID. Accessed 18 May 2022.

"Anthony S. Fauci, M.D." NIAID. Accessed 18 May 2022.

"'This Week' Transcript 3-20-22: Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. John Barrasso, Marina Ovsyannikova & Dr. Anthony Fauci." ABC News. 20 Mar 2022.

Haslett, Cheyenne. "Fauci says COVID-19 cases will likely increase soon, though not necessarily hospitalizations." ABC News. 18 Mar 2022.

McDonald, Jessica. "Navarro Doesn't Give Full Picture On Hydroxychloroquine." FactCheck.org. 9 Jul 2020.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009524
MORENS_NIH_020027
REL0000479192

"Washington Times article by Robert Malone and Peter Navarro relies on inaccurate and unsubstantiated claims about virus evolution, vaccine immunity, and COVID-19 vaccine safety." Health Feedback. 15 Aug 2021.

Robertson, Lori. "Trump Spreads Distorted Claim on Wuhan Lab Funding." FactCheck.org. 15 May 2020.

"SARS-CoV-2 and NIAID-supported Bat Coronavirus Research." NIAID. 20 Oct 2021.

Maxmen, Amy. "Wuhan market was epicentre of pandemic's start, studies suggest." Nature. 27 Feb 2022.

Robertson, Lori and McDonald, Jessica. "Fauci and Paul, Round 2." FactCheck.org. 22 Jul 2021.

"Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens." NIH. Accessed 18 May 2022.

Tabak, Lawrence A. "Statement on charge to the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to review scope and effectiveness of two U.S. Government biosecurity policy frameworks." NIH statement. 28 Feb 2022.

Achenbach, Joel. "NIH orders sweeping review of potentially risky experiments on viruses and other pathogens." Washington Post. 1 Mar 2022.

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

Disclaimer

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

Date:	Mon, 24 May 2021 12:04:19 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: WSJ: Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To:	Gerald Keusch [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6];
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 23, 2021 at 16:00:41 EDT
Subject: WSJ: Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin

Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin

Report says researchers went to hospital in November 2019, shortly before confirmed outbreak; Adds to calls for probe of whether virus escaped lab



MORENS_SUBPOENA_019721
MORENS_NIH_039338
REL0000479193

A World Health Organization-led team investigating the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic visited the Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3.

By Michael R. Gordon, Warren P. Strobel and Drew Hinshaw
May 23, 2021 2:57 pm ET

WASHINGTON—Three researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick enough in November 2019 that they sought hospital care, according to a previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report that could add weight to growing calls for a fuller probe of whether the Covid-19 virus may have escaped from the laboratory.

The details of the reporting go beyond a State Department fact sheet, issued during the final days of the Trump administration, which said that several researchers at the lab, a center for the study of coronaviruses and other pathogens, became sick in autumn 2019 "with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness."

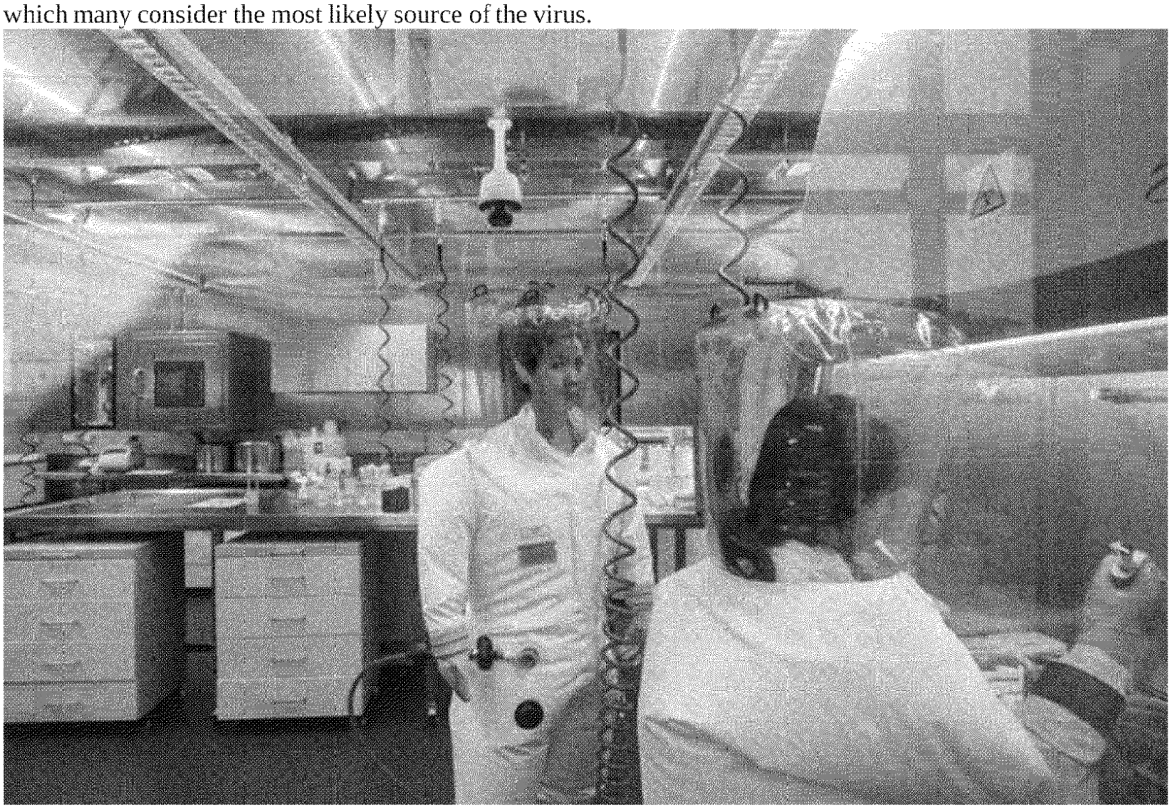
The disclosure of the number of researchers, the timing of their illnesses and their hospital visits come on the eve of a meeting of the World Health Organization's decision-making body, which is expected to discuss the next phase of an investigation into Covid-19's origins.

Current and former officials familiar with the intelligence about the lab researchers expressed differing views about the strength of the supporting evidence for the assessment. One person said that it was provided by an international partner and was potentially significant but still in need of further investigation and additional corroboration.

Another person described the intelligence as stronger. "The information that we had coming from the various sources was of exquisite quality. It was very precise. What it didn't tell you was exactly why they got sick," he said, referring to the researchers.

November 2019 is roughly when many epidemiologists and virologists believe SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind the pandemic, first began circulating around the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where Beijing says that the first confirmed case was a man who fell ill on Dec. 8, 2019.

The Wuhan Institute hasn't shared raw data, safety logs and lab records on its extensive work with coronaviruses in bats, which many consider the most likely source of the virus.



Shi Zhengli, the top bat coronavirus expert at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, has said Covid-19 didn't leak from her laboratories. Dr. Shi shown in 2017.
Photo: johannes eisele/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019722
MORENS_NIH_039339
REL0000479193

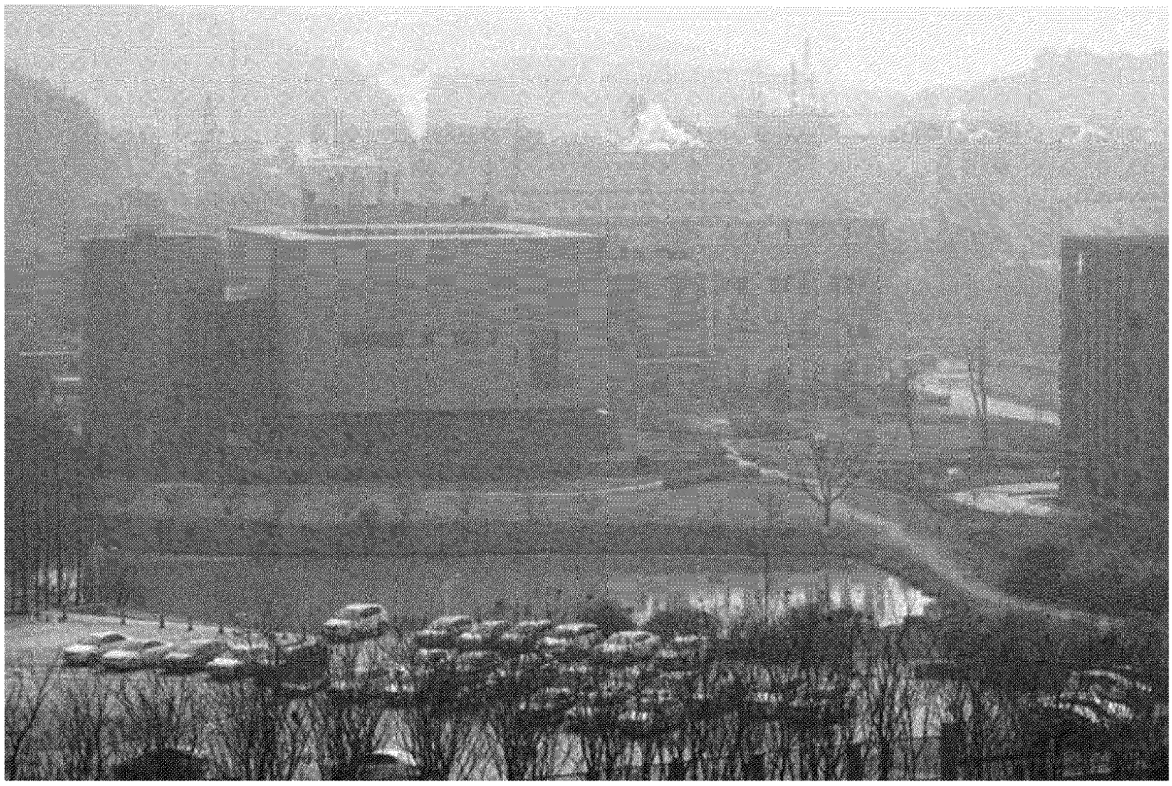
China has repeatedly denied that the virus escaped from one of its labs. On Sunday, China's foreign ministry cited a WHO-led team's conclusion, after a visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or WIV, in February, that a lab leak was extremely unlikely. "The U.S. continues to hype the lab leak theory," the foreign ministry said in response to a request for comment by The Wall Street Journal. "Is it actually concerned about tracing the source or trying to divert attention?"
The Biden administration declined to comment on the intelligence but said that all technically credible theories on the origin of the pandemic should be investigated by the WHO and international experts.
"We continue to have serious questions about the earliest days of the Covid-19 pandemic, including its origins within the People's Republic of China," said a spokeswoman for the National Security Council.

Covid-19's Origins

More WSJ coverage on the WHO's investigation, selected by the editors

- U.S. Aims to Shape New Phase of WHO-Led Probe Into Origin of Covid-19 (April 27)
- China Says Covid-19 Origin Probe Should Shift Focus to Other Countries (March 31)
- U.S. Calls for Independent Study of Covid-19 Origin (March 30)
- WHO Report Into Covid-19 Origins Leaves Key Questions Unanswered (March 29)
- WHO Team Expert Expects Covid-19's Origins Will Be Found 'Within A Few Years' (March 10)

"We're not going to make pronouncements that prejudge an ongoing WHO study into the source of SARS-CoV-2," the spokeswoman said. "As a matter of policy we never comment on intelligence issues."
Beijing has also asserted that the virus could have originated outside China, including at a lab at the Fort Detrick military base in Maryland, and called for the WHO to investigate early Covid outbreaks in other countries.
Most scientists say they have seen nothing to corroborate the idea that the virus came from a U.S. military lab, and the White House has said there are no credible reasons to investigate it.
China's National Health Commission and the WIV didn't respond to requests for comment. Shi Zhengli, the top bat coronavirus expert at WIV, has said the virus didn't leak from her laboratories. She told the WHO-led team that traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to investigate the origins of the virus that all staff had tested negative for Covid-19 antibodies and there had been no turnover of staff on the coronavirus team.
Marion Koopmans, a Dutch virologist on that team told NBC News in March that some WIV staff did fall sick in the autumn of 2019, but she attributed that to regular, seasonal sickness.
"There were occasional illnesses because that's normal. There was nothing that stood out," she said. "Maybe one or two. It's certainly not a big, big thing."
It isn't unusual for people in China to go straight to the hospital when they fall sick, either because they get better care there or lack access to a general practitioner. Covid-19 and the flu, while very different illnesses, share some of the same symptoms, such as fever, aches and a cough. Still, it could be significant if members of the same team working with coronaviruses went to hospital with similar symptoms shortly before the pandemic was first identified.
David Asher, a former U.S. official who led a State Department task force on the origins of the virus for then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, told a Hudson Institute seminar in March that he doubted that the lab researchers became sick because of the ordinary flu.
"I'm very doubtful that three people in highly protected circumstances in a level three laboratory working on coronaviruses would all get sick with influenza that put them in the hospital or in severe conditions all in the same week, and it didn't have anything to do with the coronavirus," he said, adding that the researchers' illness may represent "the first known cluster" of Covid-19 cases.
Long characterized by skeptics as a conspiracy theory, the hypothesis that the pandemic could have begun with a lab accident has attracted more interest from scientists who have complained about the lack of transparency by Chinese authorities or conclusive proof for the alternate hypothesis: that the virus was contracted by humans from a bat or other infected animal outside a lab.
Many proponents of the lab hypothesis say that a virus that was carried by an infected bat might have been brought to the lab so that researchers could work on potential vaccines—only to escape.
While the lab hypothesis is being taken more seriously, including by Biden administration officials, the debate is still colored by political tensions, including over how much evidence is needed to sustain the hypothesis.



A view of the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Photo: Ng Han Guan/Associated Press

The State Department fact sheet issued during the Trump administration, which drew on classified intelligence, said that the "U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and seasonal illnesses."

The Jan. 15 fact sheet added that this fact "raises questions about the credibility" of Dr. Shi and criticized Beijing for its "deceit and disinformation" while acknowledging that the U.S. government hasn't determined exactly how the pandemic began.

The Biden administration hasn't disputed any of the assertions in the fact sheet, which current and former officials say was vetted by U.S. intelligence agencies. The fact sheet also covered research activities at the WIV, its alleged cooperation on some projects with the Chinese military and accidents at other Chinese labs.

But one Biden administration official said that by highlighting data that pointed to the lab leak hypothesis, Trump administration officials had sought "to put spin on the ball." Several U.S. officials described the intelligence as "circumstantial," worthy of further exploration but not conclusive on its own.

Asked about the Jan. 15 statement, State Department spokesman Ned Price said: "A fact sheet issued by the previous administration on January 15 did not draw any conclusions regarding the origins of the coronavirus. Rather, it focused on the lack of transparency surrounding the origins."

Though the first known case was Dec. 8, several analyses of the virus's rate of mutation concluded that it likely began spreading several weeks earlier.

The WHO-led team that visited Wuhan concluded in a joint report with Chinese experts in March that the virus most likely spread from bats to humans via another animal, and that a laboratory leak was "extremely unlikely."

However, team members said they didn't view raw data or original lab, safety and other records. On the same day the report came out, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the team hadn't adequately examined the lab leak hypothesis, and called for a fuller probe of the idea.

The U.S., European Union and several other governments have also called for a more transparent investigation of Covid-19's origins, without explicitly demanding a lab probe. They have called in particular for better access to data and samples from potential early Covid-19 cases.

Members of the WHO-led team said Chinese counterparts had identified 92 potential Covid-19 cases among some 76,000 people who fell sick between October and early December 2019, but turned down requests to share raw data on the larger group. That data would help the WHO-led team understand why China sought to only test those 92 people for antibodies.

Team members also said they asked for access to a Wuhan blood bank to test samples from before December 2019 for antibodies. Chinese authorities declined at first, citing privacy concerns, then agreed, but have yet to provide that access, team members say.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019725
MORENS_NIH_039342
REL0000479193

Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 4:53:47 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 4:53:38 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	"Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

Peter:

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

Rich

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

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

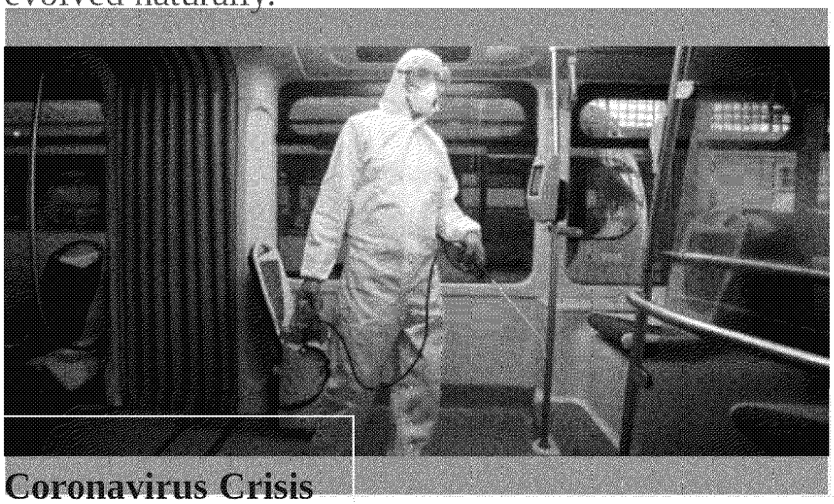
The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used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

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

A Rational Choice

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

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



Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

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

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



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

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010476
MORENS_NIH_020995
REL0000479194

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

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

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

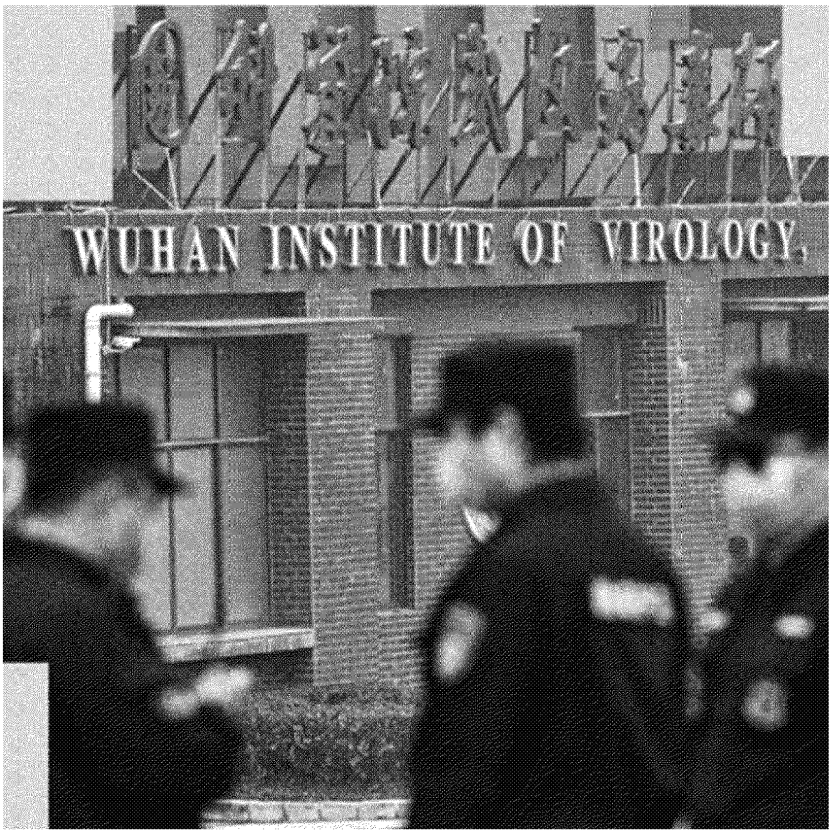
"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

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

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

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted

Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

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

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

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

to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

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



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

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010479
MORENS_NIH_020998
REL0000479194

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

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

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

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply b6 hed article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided

grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

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



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

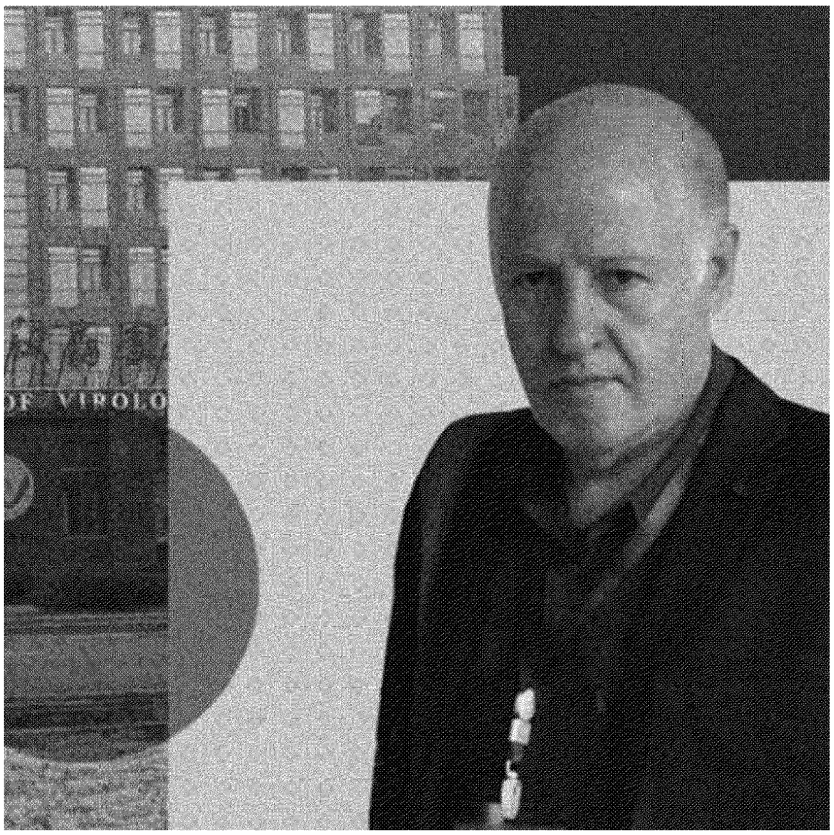
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010483
MORENS_NIH_021002
REL0000479194

"condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

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

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the

emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <J_Sturchio@msn.com>; Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>; Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010487
MORENS_NIH_021006
REL0000479194

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Virginia Hug
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New York Times jou
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:49:00 PM

Hi Carl:

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

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

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010488
MORENS_NIH_021007
REL0000479194

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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

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

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

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

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg < NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010489
MORENS_NIH_021008
REL0000479194

Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



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

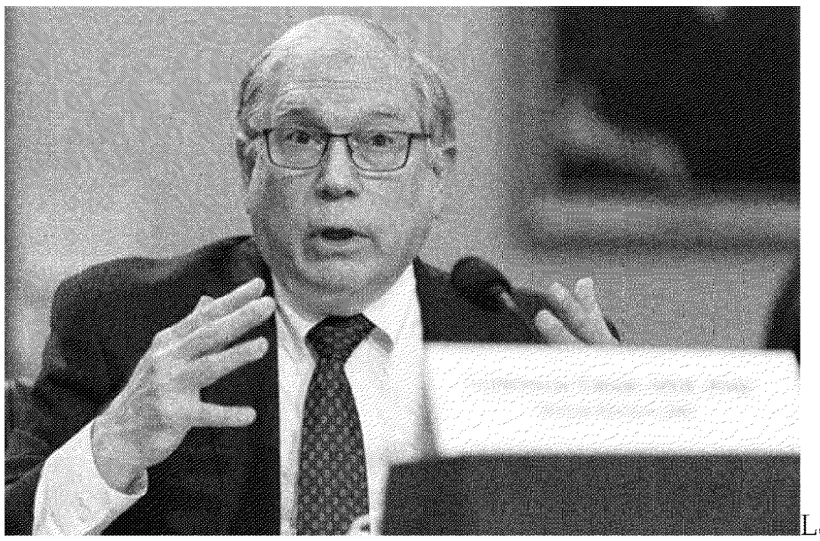
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010490
MORENS_NIH_021009
REL0000479194


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

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

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

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

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

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

"That's correct," he said.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.

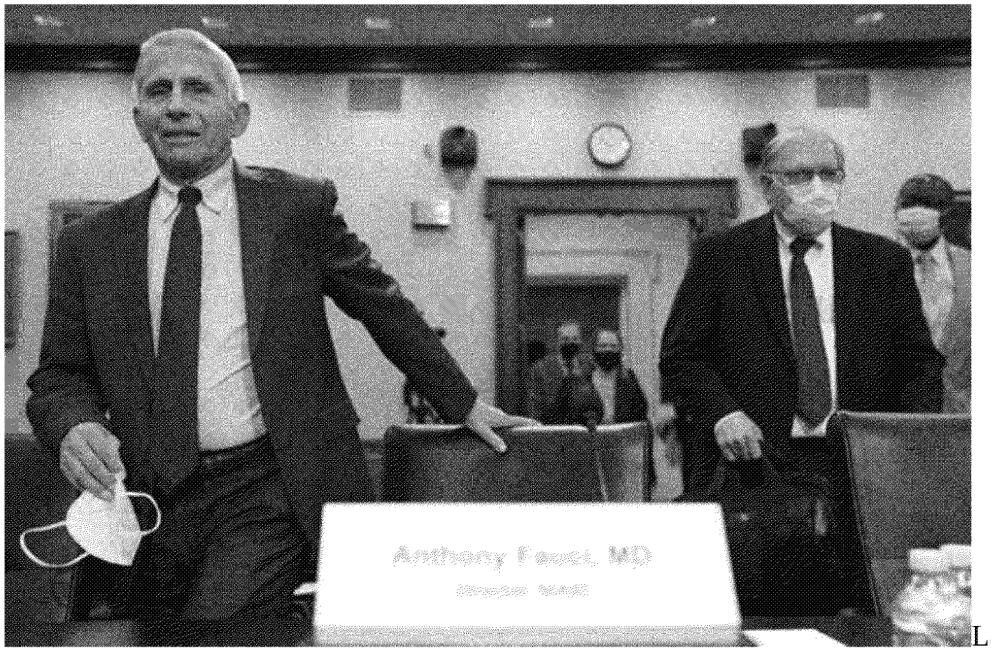


Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 8:17:30 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 8:17:22 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Edward Holmes [b6] >
To: Jason Gale [b6]
CC: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; [b6] Wang [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6]

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T
E [b6]

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: [b6] At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: [b6]

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6]

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010411
MORENS_NIH_020927
REL0000479199

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
E b6

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 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 b6 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] b6 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 b6 wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010412
MORENS_NIH_020928
REL0000479199

Yes, good idea.

The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…

This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.

That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T
E b6

> On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 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: b6 At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
> > To: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010413
MORENS_NIH_020929
REL0000479199

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) ,
r[redacted] b6 b6 b6

(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 < b6 wrote:

> Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a b6 world. To find out more, visit our website.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 b6

Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 3:54:42 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 3:54:40 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: For urgent review: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.png

And I appreciate the significant of the word “almost” in Peter’s note.

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:50 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: RE: FW: For urgent review: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal

Your words bring almost as much solace as half a bottle of a very good red wine would.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Subject: Fwd: FW: For urgent review: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal

'Tis for crap like this that good Scotch whiskey is made, and tall glasses to pour it in..... Do Not Worry, behind the scenes NIH is sticking up for EcoHealth. d

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022208
MORENS_NIH_043109
REL0000479200

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: For urgent review: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal
Date: Tue, 7 Sep 2021 19:27:20 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
To: David Morens (b6

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
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 v >; Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: NIAID FOG <fog@niaid.nih.gov >; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR NSWB <NIAIDOCGRNSWB@mail.nih.gov >
Subject: For urgent review: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal

Good afternoon,
We received some follow-up questions from The Intercept regarding the GoF research documents they received (full inquiry below). DMID suggested the following language in order to respond to the reporter's questions. Her deadline is 5:00 PM today; would you be able to comment on these draft responses?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022209
MORENS_NIH_043110
REL0000479200

- Does this fit the NIH's definition of Gain of Function research?
    - The award to EcoHealth Alliance was reviewed by NIAID in the context of both the Gain-of-Function Research Funding Pause and the subsequent HHS P3CO Framework. In 2016, NIAID determined that the work was not subject to the Gain-of-Function (GoF) research pause because the proposed chimeras contained only S glycoproteins from distantly related bat coronaviruses, and also because contemporaneous data published at the time demonstrated that similar chimeric viruses exhibited reduced pathogenicity compared to wild type viruses. NIAID subsequently reviewed the work in the context of the P3CO Framework and determined it was not subject to P3CO because 1) P3CO requires a pathogen be highly transmissible and highly pathogenic in humans. Such chimeric work done in backbones of animal CoVs or mouse adapted CoVs (e.g. in WIV1 or SARS-CoVMA15) are performed in viral backbones unable to readily infect human cells; and 2) insertion of spike proteins from more distantly related animal CoVs would not be anticipated to increase pathogenicity or transmissibility in humans.
- Was anyone at NIH was aware of the work described above (and in the update presumably sent to you in late 2018 or early 2019)?
    - NIAID reviewed the work for compliance with both the GoF Research Funding Pause and the P3CO Framework as described above. Progress reports are reviewed and approved annually by NIAID staff.
- And if NIH was aware of the work, why was it allowed to continue?
    - This work was allowed to continue because it was not reasonably anticipated to increase pathogenicity or transmissibility either in mammals (Gain-of-Function Research Funding Pause) or in humans via the respiratory route (P3CO). These types of studies are important to understand whether newly discovered viruses have the potential to infect and cause disease in humans.
- She also wants to know: "was this process described above — the immediate stopping of working and notification of the NIAID Program Officer Grants Management Specialist, and appropriate institutional biosafety committee — set in motion on the case I wrote about earlier (ie the case of the novel coronaviruses replicating at 100s of times the rate compared to the original virus?"
    - It is not accurate to say that the chimeras replicated "at 100s of times the rate compared to the original virus." The figure you referenced clearly demonstrates that viral titers are equivalent by the end of the experimental time-course.
- Lastly, for awareness, she also sent one final follow-up which I have not had a chance to run past DMID yet: "And actually I found this similar statement, which was made in the 2017 NOA, which would pertain to the time period the research was being done: '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.' So my question is the same, but refers to the above warning: Were all experiments with these viruses stopped and did WIV 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 outcome?"

From: Sharon Lerner <sharon.lerner@theintercept.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:43 AM
To: NIAID NEWS (NIH/NIAID) <NIAIDNEWS@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal

Hi NIH Press-

I am writing about EcoHealth Alliance grant proposals you recently released to us (see p 684 in the that you released to us over the weekend). In particular in this story, I am noting that, in an annual report on work conducted between June of 2017 and the end of May 2018 under a NIH grant to the EcoHealth Alliance called "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ,"scientists describe creating new coronaviruses based on an original bat coronavirus called "WIV1," and injecting the new "chimeric" viruses, as they are called, into mice that were engineered to respond to them similarly to humans.
Once inside the lungs of the altered mice, the novel viruses reproduced at a hundreds of times the rate than the original virus that was used to create them, according to a table shown on the next page (685) in the documents. (I am sending a screenshot FYI.)
My questions to you:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022210
MORENS_NIH_043111
REL0000479200

Does this fit the NIH's definition of Gain of Function research?
Was anyone at NIH was aware of the work described above (and in the update presumably sent to you in late 2018 or early 2019)?
And if NIH was aware of the work, why was it allowed to continue?
Please get me your responses by 2 pm today.

Thank you,
Sharon

PI: Daszak, Peter

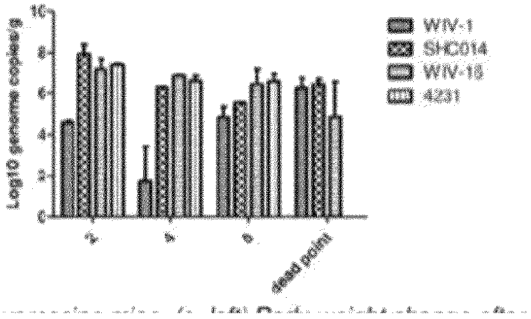


Figure 34. SHC014-S2 RBD analysis (a) and DPP4-binding assay (b)

In Vivo Infection of Human ACE2 (hACE2) Expressing Mice with SARSr-CoV S Protein variants

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. In Year 4, we performed preliminary in vivo infection of SARSr-CoVs on transgenic mice that express hACE2. Mice were infected with 10^5 pfu of full-length recombinant virus of WIV1 (rWIV1) and the three chimeric viruses with different spikes. Pathogenesis of the 4 SARSr-CoVs was then determined in a 2-week course. Mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S have experienced about 20% body weight loss by the 6th day post infection, while rWIV1 and rWIV-4231S produced less body weight loss. In the mice infected with rWIV1-WIV16S, no body weight loss was observed **(Fig. 35a)**. 2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S reached more than 10^6 genome copies/g and were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice **(Fig. 35b)**. These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice.

Sharon Lerner
Investigative Reporter
The Intercept
mobile/signal b6
@fastlerner
https://theintercept.com/staff/sharonlerner/

PGP:
CB29 D9FF 9285 3205 087E 83A1 0C30 2F39 4F30 8BFE

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022211
MORENS_NIH_043112
REL0000479200

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 5:08:51 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 5:08:08 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6]>; Karen Goraleski [b6]>; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6]>; Jacobson, Julie [b6] [b6]>; Stephen Popper [b6] Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6]>; [b6] [b6] Dan Bausch [b6] [b6]>;

CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6] [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]>;

Attachments: image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] gov>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) ; Karen Goraleski [b6]>; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6]>; Jacobson, Julie [b6] [b6]>; Stephen Popper [b6]>; [b6] Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6]>; [b6] [b6] Dan Bausch [b6] [b6]>
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Dear ASTMH colleagues,

As of today, shockingly, our own Charlie Calisher, who has been involved in so-called GOF research, and who coauthored last year's ASTMH paper, and who has been an esteemed colleague of mine for 45+ years, told the press in two separate interviews that he now thinks the lab leak theory is possible. Peter Palese, an esteemed researcher who has done and been accused of GOF research today said the same. I am very depressed by this, as I know these men and their scientific creds and their integrity.

What is going on?

Possibility no. 1: I am totally crazy and the whole world is a conspiracy that I am blind to.

Possibility no. 2: this is a McCarthy-era witch hunt story and good people are being drawn into it from fear, moral confusion, or a weak inability to evaluate scientific evidence I (I rather hope it's not the latter)….

Before deciding on which of these two, I would recommend seeing the play, or more conveniently and quickly the movie made from it, of Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era classic "The Crucible". I went through all of this as a kid. This whole thing is to me déjà vu all over again.

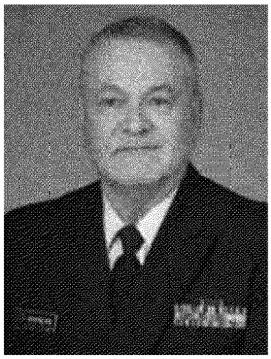
I don't know what, if anything, ASTMH can or should do, but let us at least agree that this is one of the most dangerous attacks on science in memory.

Surely we should have a voice in some sphere.

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
- b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

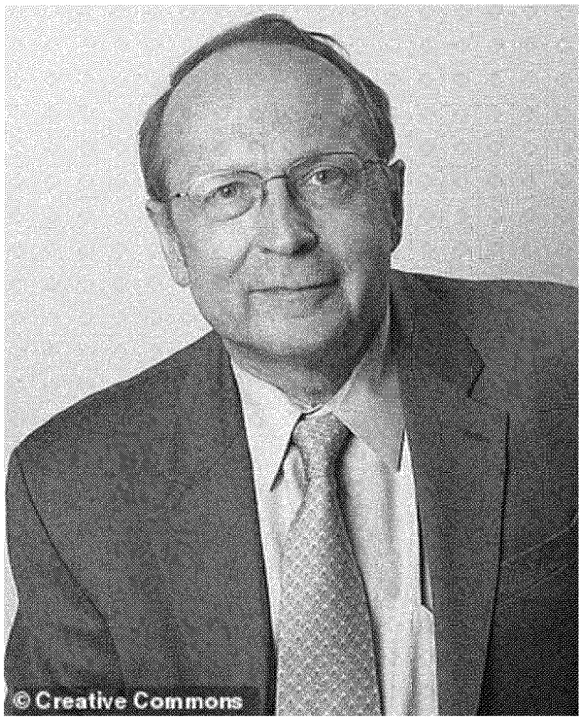
Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

- **EXCLUSIVE: Peter Palese has U-turned after claiming virus was natural in origin**
- **New York microbiologist signed letter in Lancet denouncing all other theories**
- **'Bullying' letter has been described as ostracizing dissenting voices in science**

By Joe Davies For Mailonline
Published: 12:11 EDT, 4 June 2021 | Updated: 13:46 EDT, 4 June 2021



Dr Peter Palese, a professor of microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, has U-turned after previously supporting a letter denying that COVID-19 could've leaked from a Wuhan lab

One of the 27 Covid lab leak deniers who signed a letter denouncing the theory that the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan has now called for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origins, MailOnline can reveal.

Dr Peter Palese, a microbiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, signed the letter in the Lancet in February last year claiming the virus could only have been natural in origin and to suggest otherwise would create 'fear, rumors, and prejudice'.

The 'bullying' letter was criticized by experts for ostracizing anyone offering different opinions on the virus' origins, dismissing them as conspiracy theorists.

It is only now, nearly 16 months after that letter was published in the world-renowned medical journal, that the theory Covid was accidentally leaked from a lab in Wuhan is being looked at seriously.

US President **Joe Biden** last week ordered intelligence agencies to launch a probe into whether Covid was man-made after all.

But **China** immediately hit back and called the suggestion a 'conspiracy'.

And now Professor Palese, 77, has made a significant U-turn, admitting all theories on how Covid came about now need proper investigating.

He told MailOnline: 'I believe a thorough investigation about the origin of the Covid-19 virus is needed.

'A lot of disturbing information has surfaced since the Lancet letter I signed, so I want to see answers covering all questions.'

Asked how he was originally approached to sign the letter and what new information had come to light specifically, Professor Palese declined to comment.

Palese spoke out as America's leading pandemic expert Dr. Anthony Fauci continues to face fevered calls to resign after emails revealed that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.

The emails also showed he communicated with Dr. Peter Daszak, the head of a non-profit that funneled U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Biden through his support behind the embattled expert on Friday, saying: 'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci.'

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014380
MORENS_NIH_027077
REL0000479201

Institute of Virology.
The article, published in June last year, was amended three days after its publication.
In the article titled 'Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab', Dr Daszack said the lab-leak theory was a 'chapter in a tale of blame, misinformation and finger-pointing'.
He characterised lab-leak theorists as 'conspiracy theorists' believing in 'frankenviruses'.
The Guardian was forced to amend the original article to highlight Dr Daszack's ties to the Wuhan lab from where some suggest Covid was accidentally leaked.
The paper said: 'This article was amended on 11 June 2020 to make clear the writer's past work with researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Editor of the Lancet Richard Horton — who published the letter dismissing theories Covid may not have originated naturally in his prestigious scientific journal — Tweeted support for the piece.
He wrote: 'Peter Daszak rejects conspiracy theories about the origins of Covid-19 and he knows more than most of us about coronaviruses.'
Mr Horton has regularly criticised lab-leak theories during the pandemic.
He told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post it was it is 'not helpful' and 'unfair' to blame China for being the source of the pandemic last year.
He worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli as they investigated and modified coronaviruses.
Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves.
Dr Daszak was one four Brits to sign the letter, including SAGE advisor Sir Jeremy Farrar and two other experts working for the Welcome Trust at the time. The letters' signatories included four others who worked for EcoHealth.
Jamie Metzl, who sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and is a form Bill Clinton administration staffer, said Dr Daszak's letter was a 'form of thuggery'.
He said: 'The Lancet letter was scientific propaganda and a form of thuggery and intimidation.
'By labeling anyone with different views a conspiracy theorist, the Lancet letter was the worst form of bullying in full contravention of the scientific method.'
MailOnline has approached the letters' other signatories for comment.
A Freedom of Information Act request revealed Dr Daszak told his fellow signatories in an email that the letter would not be sent under the EcoHealth logo 'and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization of person'.
The emails show he even considered not signing the letter himself, although in the end he did.
The idea, he said was for it to be coming from 'a community supporting our colleagues'.
The letter — titled 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting Covid-19' — praised the Chinese 'who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak'.
It went on to add: 'We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
'Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumors and prejudices that jeopardize our global collaboration in the fight against the virus.'
It ended with the words: 'We declare no competing interests.'
The letter proved so influential that it virtually ended debate on the origin of Covid for more than a year.
Anyone who suggested it could have been man-made was shot down amid accusations of anti-Chinese xenophobia.
Robert Redfield, the former director of the Centers for Disease Control told Vanity Fair he received death threats after floating the theory that the virus could have been man-made.
He said: 'I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis. I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science.'
Dr Peter Daszak, 55, from Manchester, orchestrated a behind-the-scenes 'bullying' campaign to ensure blame for Covid was directed away from a Chinese lab with which he had worked closely.
Dr Daszack worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli (pictured left) as they investigated and modified coronaviruses. Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves
The theory the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was originally dismissed by left-leaning media outlets last year as a conspiracy theory after it was mentioned by then-President Donald Trump.
But they have now changed course with the launch of the US investigation.
Liberal US outlets, who slammed Mr Trump when he said a year ago said he had 'a high degree of confidence' that the virus escaped from a lab, have finally conceded that he may have been right — after a year ridiculing the suggestion.

Who signed the letter in The Lancet?

- Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance, New York

- Charles Calisher, Colorado State University
- Dennis Carroll, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Texas
- Rita Colwell, University of Maryland
- Ronald Corley, NEIDL Institute, Boston
- Christian Drosten, Charité – Universitatsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Luis Enjuanes, National Center of Biotechnology, Madrid
- Jeremy Farrar, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Hume Field, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Josie Golding, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Alexander Gorbalenya, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands
- Bart Haagmans, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- James Hughes, Emory University, Atlanta
- William Karesh, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Gerald Keusch, Boston University
- Sai Kit Lam, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Juan Lubroth, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy
- John Mackenzie, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
- Larry Madoff, Massachusetts Medical School
- Jonna Mazet, University of California at Davis
- Peter Palese, Icahn School of Medicine, New York
- Stanley Perlman, University of Iowa
- Leo Poon, The University of Hong Kong
- Bernard Roizman, University of Chicago
- Linda Saif, The Ohio State University
- Kanta Subbarao, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Mike Turner, The Wellcome Trust, London

The lab-leak theory was bolstered last week after it was revealed three workers at the Wuhan lab were hospitalized in November, 2019, months before Covid was first discovered in China.

China claims the virus was transmitted to humans from an animal host, with bats and pangolins both named as potential sources. Many scientists agree that is the most likely theory.

Professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge Ravi Gupta, a member of Nervtag, said the theory has not yet been investigated with 'scientific rigor'.

He told **The Telegraph**: 'The possibility was not adequately explored due to lack of access to primary records by the WHO group. Lab leak has not been scientifically rejected as a cause using [the] scientific rigor that one would expect.'

A soon to be published report by a team of British and Norwegian experts suggests it is possible to trace the creation of the virus to research in China that began in 2008.

Professor David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, said the theory needs to be investigated by an international consortium of scientists in collaboration with the UN.

He said: 'Ideally, an investigation would rely on an international consortium of scientists under the auspices of many national academies of science working in partnership, in collaboration with an international governance entity, the UN Secretary General's Office, or something of that sort.'

And Harvard epidemiologist Professor Marc Lipsitch said a lab escape scenario 'remains plausible enough that it should be looked into rigorously'.

He told the paper: 'This is not a fringe position, given that multiple European governments and Dr Tedros have said the same.'

He said that while scientists are not saying a lab origin is more likely than a natural one, a thorough investigation is needed to reveal the cause of the pandemic.

As Dr Daszak's links to the Wuhan lab become clearer, more questions are being asked about his influence over the WHO team that went to China in January and stayed for four weeks searching for answers.

The team was met with resistance in China. Authorities there made them quarantine for two weeks in Wuhan and barred two members completely after they tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.

But critics say the WHO researchers were too cozy with Chinese authorities, who are desperate not to shoulder the blame for a worldwide death toll now approaching 3.6 million.

They claim its members may have been influenced by a tour they took round a 'propaganda museum' which described Wuhan's fight against the virus and the leading role taken by President Xi Jinping.

While China has tried to insist the virus originated elsewhere, academics, politicians and the media have begun to contemplate the possibility it escaped from the WIV - raising suspicions that Chinese officials simply hid evidence of the early spread

The Wuhan Institute of Virology is about 20 miles from the Huanan Seafood Market where the first coronavirus cases are reported to have occurred

In recent weeks, the lab-escape theory has gained ground. Already British intelligence officials, who are helping the US search

for the cause of the pandemic that has cost nearly 600,000 American lives, are said to be leaning towards the man-made scenario.
Last week MailOnline revealed two leading scientists had found 'unique fingerprints' in Covid samples that could only have come from lab manipulation.
British Professor Angus Dalgleish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sørensen, wrote that they have had 'prima facie evidence of retro-engineering in China' for a year — but were ignored by academics and major journals.

Did Covid originate in Chinese lab?

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been collecting numerous coronaviruses from bats ever since the SARS outbreak in 2002.
They have also published papers describing how these bat viruses have interacted with human cells.
US Embassy staff visited the lab in 2018 and 'had grave safety concerns' over the protocols which were being observed at the facility.
The lab is just eight miles from the Huanan wet market which is where the first cluster of infections erupted in Wuhan.
The market is just a few hundred yards from another lab called the Wuhan Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (WHCDC).
The WHCDC kept disease-ridden animals in its labs, including some 605 bats.
Those who support the theory argue that Covid-19 could have leaked from either or both of these facilities and spread to the wet market.
Most argue that this would have been a virus they were studying rather than one which was engineered.
Last year a bombshell paper from the Beijing-sponsored South China University of Technology recounted how bats once attacked a researcher at the WHCDC and 'blood of bat was on his skin.'
The report says: 'Genome sequences from patients were 96% or 89% identical to the Bat CoV ZC45 coronavirus originally found in Rhinolophus affinis (intermediate horseshoe bat).'
It describes how the only native bats are found around 600 miles away from the Wuhan seafood market and that the probability of bats flying from Yunnan and Zhejiang provinces was minimal.
In addition there is little to suggest the local populace eat the bats as evidenced by testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors.
Instead the authors point to research being carried out within 300 yards at the WHCDC.
One of the researchers at the WHCDC described quarantining himself for two weeks after a bat's blood got on his skin, according to the report. That same man also quarantined himself after a bat urinated on him.
And he also mentions discovering a live tick from a bat - parasites known for their ability to pass infections through a host animal's blood.
'The WHCDC was also adjacent to the Union Hospital (Figure 1, bottom) where the first group of doctors were infected during this epidemic.' The report says.
'It is plausible that the virus leaked around and some of them contaminated the initial patients in this epidemic, though solid proofs are needed in future study.'
Professor Dalgleish, 71, a vaccine researcher and professor of oncology at St George's Hospital, last year struggled to find a publisher for his paper suggesting the virus's spike protein contains artificially inserted sequences.
He said the research was shunned by the scientific community, who did not want to threaten China or be seen to be agreeing with President Donald Trump — who was a big advocate for the theory the virus was leaked from a lab at the time.
The oncologist said: 'The changes required to infect humans are extremely unlikely to have occurred naturally.'
Professor Dalgleish — who ran for Parliament as a UKIP candidate in 2015 — said the President's use of the terms 'Wuhan flu' and 'China virus' damaged scientific debate on the subject.
He told **The Times**: 'I was basically ostracized. I was fearful — really frightened by the way I was being treated. I was told I was not an expert on coronaviruses and I should just shut up.
'We couldn't believe people with whom we'd collaborated and published papers with in the past would shun us — I was warned I was out of my depth and I shouldn't get into this and I'd make a fool of myself.'
And just last week President Joe Biden ordered another look at the theory as part of a wide-ranging intelligence investigation into the pandemic's origins. He felt it so urgent that he put a 90-day deadline for a conclusion.
Emails from Dr Anthony Fauci, Mr Biden's chief medical advisor, show that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.
Fauci says those emails, obtained by Buzzfeed, have been taken out of context.
But he did U-turn about where the virus may have originated this week, saying 'you never know'.
One of them was from Dr Daszak, who thanked Dr Fauci for pushing back on the man-made theory.
In April, Dr Drazak wrote: 'I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for Covid-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Even WHO's Ethiopian director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the report was not extensive enough and more work needed to be done to discover the cause of Covid.
'As far as WHO is concerned, all hypotheses remain on the table,' he said.
'This report is a very important beginning, but it is not the end.'
America is looking at the theory seriously, leading to China hitting out at the 'dark history' of the US intelligence community

after President Biden's probe was announced.
Lijian Zhao, foreign ministry spokesman who has been Beijing's point-man in trying to pin blame for the pandemic outside the country's borders, accused the US of trying to shift blame away from its own high Covid case and death counts - and suggested security services may be involved in a cover-up.
Meanwhile Hu Xijin, editor of the state mouthpiece Global Times newspaper, accused Biden of trying to discredit a WHO investigation which concluded that a lab leak is 'unlikely' — although critics have previously blasted that report as a China-centric whitewash.
China's American embassy also hit out, accusing Biden and his security services of being 'fixated on political manipulation and (the) blame game' in a statement on its website.
No10 officials have called for investigators to probe all theories as to how the Covid pandemic began.
Dominic Cummings this week revealed the PM held meetings when the crisis first began to discuss whether it had 'escaped' from a laboratory and whether the disease had been 'engineered'.

The Lancet letter in full: 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19'

We are public health scientists who have closely followed the emergence of 2019 novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and are deeply concerned about its impact on global health and wellbeing.
We have watched as the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China, in particular, have worked diligently and effectively to rapidly identify the pathogen behind this outbreak, put in place significant measures to reduce its impact, and share their results transparently with the global health community. This effort has been remarkable.
We sign this statement in solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak.
We are all in this together, with our Chinese counterparts in the forefront, against this new viral threat.
The rapid, open, and transparent sharing of data on this outbreak is now being threatened by rumours and misinformation around its origins.
We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
Scientists from multiple countries have published and analysed genomes of the causative agent, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and they overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife, as have so many other emerging pathogens.
This is further supported by a letter from the presidents of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and by the scientific communities they represent.
Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumours, and prejudice that jeopardise our global collaboration in the fight against this virus.
We support the call from the Director-General of WHO to promote scientific evidence and unity over misinformation and conjecture.
We want you, the science and health professionals of China, to know that we stand with you in your fight against this virus.
We invite others to join us in supporting the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of Wuhan and across China. Stand with our colleagues on the frontline!
We speak in one voice. To add your support for this statement, sign our letter online. LM is editor of ProMED-mail. We declare no competing interests.

Sen. Rand Paul says Fauci's emails paint a 'disturbing picture' about what he knew about work inside the Wuhan lab

Sen. **Rand Paul** continued his blitz on Dr. **Anthony Fauci** in the wake of Fauci's email dump, telling Fox that Fauci knew the US was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan even though he continues to deny it.
The Republican from **Kentucky** told Fox Thursday night that Fauci's emails 'tell me early on that he was very worried' before the pandemic even started.
'There's a disturbing picture. He gets an email or he gets notification of what's going on in Wuhan and immediately sends something to his assistant saying, "We must meet immediately." And in the subject line it says gain of function research in Wuhan.'
While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.
The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.
'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.
Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.
Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.
In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function

pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'
He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'
This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.
The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'
Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.
During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'
Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'
'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.
Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'
Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.
Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.
Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.
Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.
During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.
Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.
'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.
The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.
Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.
British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Sun, 16 May 2021 11:55:43 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 16 May 2021 11:52:16 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: and there's more...
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Roberts, Rich b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Here's a link to the letter from Devon Nunes et al.:

https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20709271- 20210516_rm-ltr-to-president-biden_re-covid-19

and here's another news item on it:

https://hillreporter.com/devin- nunes-milks-covid-19-conspiracy-theory-101052

I guess the Republicans are flailing around throwing mud at whatever they perceive as Democrat-focused to see what will stick on Biden via Fauci via EcoHealth.

Pretty sad state of politics right now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:47 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' b6 >; 'Keusch, Jerry' < b6
Subject: and there's more...

Hot of the (Fox News) press – apparently I've spent $100 billion in Govt funding now…:

Republican members of the House Intelligence Committee wrote to President Biden and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines demanding information on the origin of COVID-19. Devon Nunes stated on Fox News that: "Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, has taken $100 billion in government funding. Though he has no accounting of how the money was spent, Nunes said he believes some was used for good, but "the question is 'is someone who was involved in allocating that money be

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014927
MORENS_NIH_030580
REL0000479202

involved in investigating the origins of this Wuhan virus?' I'm not sure that would be appropriate."
https://foxwilmington.com/politics/gop- members-press-biden-dni-haines-for-more-information-on-covid-lab-leak-theory/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:39 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' < b6 >; 'Keusch, Jerry' < b6
Subject: RE: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014928
MORENS_NIH_030581
REL0000479202

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(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
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 ; Keusch, Jerry < b6 Roberts, Rich < b6
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014929
MORENS_NIH_030582
REL0000479202

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

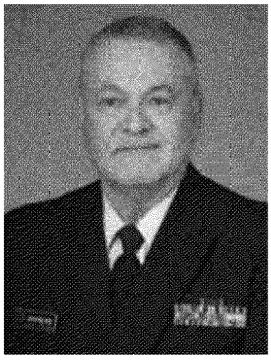
---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
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
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

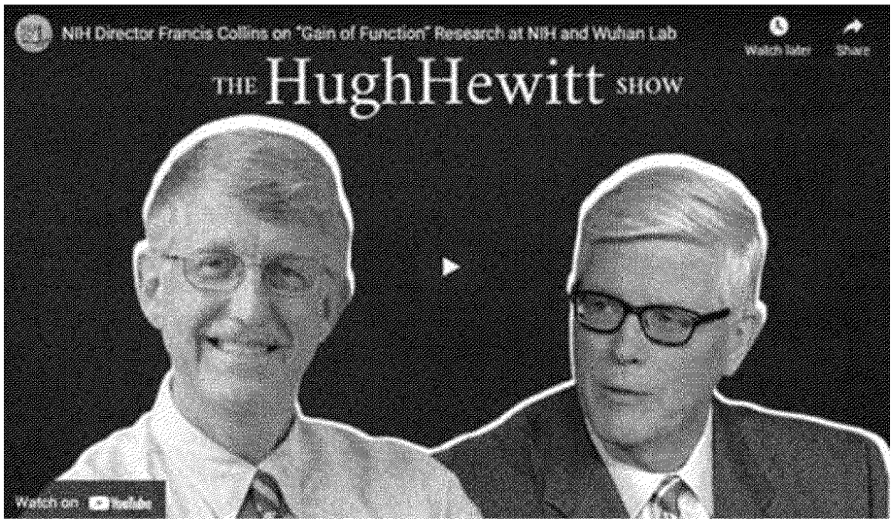
Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: 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 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014931
MORENS_NIH_030584
REL0000479202

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.

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.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 4:18:39 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 4:16:03 PM -0400
Subject: Nasty hit piece today on Fox News about me and EcoHealth from Rep. Comer
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 peter hotez b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Attachments: b6

Here's Representative Comer, Republican on House Oversight Committee repeatedly attacking me and EcoHealth Alliance by name on Fox News today.

Disgusting level of fake anger, with a series of lies and falsehoods to back it up.

Here's the video (you don't need Twitter to watch it).

https://twitter.com/i/status/1561736412885651457

I've already got journalists calling my home now, harrassing us.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 12:04 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6; Peter Daszak b6 leksei Chmura b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Roberts, Rich b6; peter hotez b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: FW: Sharing Statements from President Joe Biden and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Dr. Fauci's Announcement

David M. Morens, MD

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011346
MORENS_NIH_022133
REL0000479203

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 12:00 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6 > 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
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: owner-nih-all-staff@list.nih.gov [b6 > **On Behalf Of** NIH Executive

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011347
MORENS_NIH_022134
REL0000479203

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, and he does it with an unparalleled spirit, energy, and scientific integrity.

Dr. Fauci has served under seven Republican and Democratic Presidents during his career, beginning with Ronald Reagan. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008 under President George W. Bush. For almost four decades, he has served as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, helping our country navigate health crises ranging from HIV/AIDS to COVID-19. Because of Dr. Fauci's many contributions to public health, lives here in the United States and around the world have been saved. As he leaves his position in the U.S. Government, I know the American people and the entire world will continue to benefit from Dr. Fauci's expertise in whatever he does next. Whether you've met him personally or not, he has touched all Americans' lives with his work. I extend my deepest thanks for his public service. The United States of America is stronger, more resilient, and healthier because of him.

Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Upcoming Departure of Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Today, Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. announced he is stepping down in December 2022 from the positions of Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation, as well as Chief Medical Advisor to the President. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement:

"This is a decision we all knew would eventually come but hoped never would. As HHS Secretary, I am privileged to know Dr. Fauci professionally and personally and deeply admire his decades of public service that have undoubtedly improved the health of millions of people globally. When I arrived at HHS, the world was one year into the COVID-19 pandemic. I quickly came to rely on Dr. Fauci's wisdom and counsel in our response, and along with his scientific acumen, I treasure his ability to break down complex science in simple terms to the American people to save lives.

"His selfless passion to bring hope and healing to people fighting for their health knows no bounds. In fact, Dr. Fauci's pioneering approach to tackle public health decades ago included a critical role in our nation's domestic and international response to HIV/AIDS, ultimately helping create the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

"I will be sorry to see Dr. Fauci depart in December, but I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to witnessing his next chapter."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011348
MORENS_NIH_022135
REL0000479203

Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 6:57:28 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 6:55:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch < [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010626
MORENS_NIH_021165
REL0000479206

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010627
MORENS_NIH_021166
REL0000479206

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 ; David Morens b6 Gerald T Keusch < b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 >; Hotez, Peter Ja b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010628
MORENS_NIH_021167
REL0000479206

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens [b6 Gerald T Keusch [b6 Jeff Sturchio [b6 ;
Roberts, Rich [b6 Hotez, Peter Jay [b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010629
MORENS_NIH_021168
REL0000479206

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' [b6] >; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6] Jeff Sturchio' [b6] ;
'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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

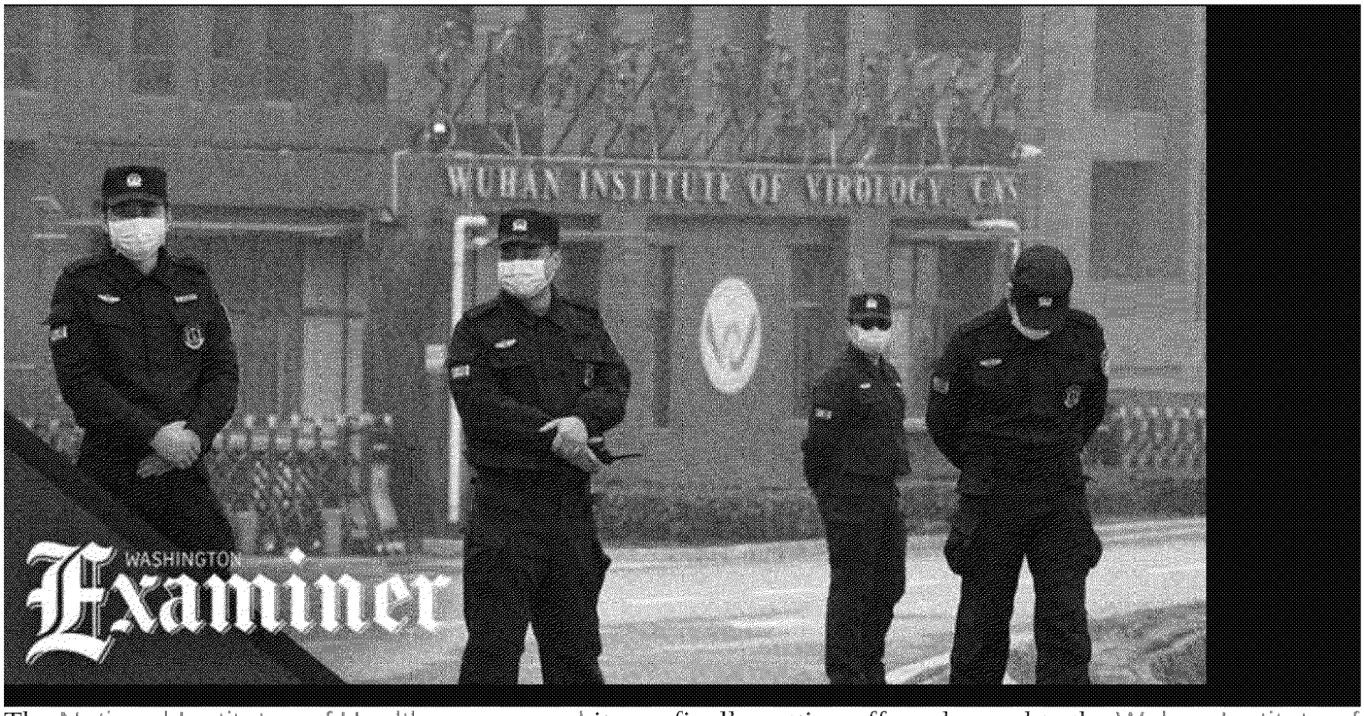
WUHAN LAB

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010630
MORENS_NIH_021169
REL0000479206



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence

may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China.

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [redacted]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6] Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]
>; Gerald T Keusch Jeff Sturchio[b6]
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 [b6] > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6] 'David Morens' [b6]>; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6] 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay; [b6] Peter Daszak <[b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6] David Morens [b6]>; David Morens [b6]; 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010634
MORENS_NIH_021173
REL0000479206

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens b6 David Morens b6; Gerald T Keusch b6 Roberts, Rich b6
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: b6u
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

Douglas.S[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp [b6]
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010636
MORENS_NIH_021175
REL0000479206

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: b6 b6



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010637
MORENS_NIH_021176
REL0000479206

Date: Mon, 18 Jul 2022 11:58:31 AM -0400

Sent: Mon, 18 Jul 2022 11:58:24 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Fauci

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]>

To: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; peter hotez [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>;

Thanks for forwarding this, David. This is a good way for Tony to continue the current battle against misinformation (especially from politicians) and promote the intrinsic value of a free and globally collaborative scientific enterprise – and the important role US science and scientists have within it.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; peter hotez [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>
Subject: Fwd: Fauci

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** David Morens [b6]
> **Date:** July 18, 2022 at 10:24:12 EDT
> **To:** David Morens <[b6]
> **Subject: Fwd: Fauci**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "McKay, Betsy" <[b6]
> > **Date:** July 18, 2022 at 10:17:07 EDT
> > **To:** David Morens [b6]
> > **Subject: Fauci**
> >
> > Hi David - we spoke a couple of weeks ago about Tony Fauci's retirement. Here's a new data point, in Politico today!
> >
> > https://www.politico.com/news/2022/07/18/anthony- fauci-interview-covid-00046189
> >
> > Best,
> > Betsy
> >
> > --
> > Betsy McKay
> > SENIOR WRITER
> >
> > ×

M: b6 Mobile/Whatsapp/Signal/Telegram)

O: +1 b6 b6 b6

E: b6

T: @betswrites

MORENS_NIH_018282
REL0000479207

Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 2:05:48 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 2:05:45 PM -0400
Subject: Re:Confidential - WHO international team members have a commentary coming out in tomorrow's Nature
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ b6
To: b6 b6 b6
CC: b6 b6 b6 b6 b6
Attachments: Koopmans et al. Comment Covid Origins Nature 2021.pdf

Thanks, Peter. I'll have a look when I'm actually awake. I realise there's not a lot of upside for any scientist commenting publicly on origins stuff, but if anyone here feels brave enough to offer a response to fill in the blanks, I would be most grateful!
Adding Robert Kessler. Checking, what time does the embargo lift?
Many thanks and kindest regards, Jason.

---- Original Message ----

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

CC: JASON GALE, b6
b6

At: 08/24/21 02:54:47 UTC+10:00

Just as an FYI (Jason – this is "off-the-record") – we have a commentary in Nature that's under embargo until Wednesday 25th August 11am Eastern. I expect reporters will be contacting you about it, and wanted to let you see it first.

I've attached it here so you can see what we're saying – it's carefully worded to be as apolitical and non-controversial as possible. It was written as a response to the WHO DG deciding to move from the previous plan of the Phase 1 group continuing its work into Phase 2, to the current call for a new structure and a focus on the lab leak/audit. Our major concerns are that this will (has!) stalled progress, and the key messages from our point of view are that:

- the search for the origins is important and needs to continue
- since our report, we feel that most attention has gone to debates regarding likelihood of a lab leak, at the cost of progress in other areas
- we should all be concerned that time passing - in part owing to these discussions – and this could close the window of opportunity for some critical studies
- there are critical issues to deal with that are laid out in the report as recommendations for Phase 2: tracking back from the market, following new leads from the recent paper on mammals in the market, representative wild animal and farmed wild animal surveys, and comparative serosurveys in all regions where there has been evidence of early circulation.
- the lab audit - as added- will need to be developed to define questions. The smallpox audit example cited by WHO in their press addresses biosafety and biosecurity for that pathogen, but would not necessarily help identify evidence for a lab leak. Developing those studies, and agreeing them with China may take of lot of time and that these should not lead to further delays for the other recommended studies

I'm trying to stay out of publicity as much as possible, but hope you are being asked to comment and will do so!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Jason Gale b6
b6
Subject: Re: Use this thread to respond! Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

Thank you Peter - I think this week is going to be a critical week for science. Bob G

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2021, at 7:24 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.
>
> Hi all – just catching up with emails after a few days off and wanted to make sure you don't get caught out in FoIAs – Above is David Morens' gmail address that's not Foia-ble. Also I've taken Peter Ben Embarek and Maria Van Kerkhove off this email chain in case they were put on accidentally, and so no one gets caught out criticizing them!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6 >
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >
Cc: b6 b6 ; b6 ; b6 ; Garry, Robert F < b6
Subject: Re: Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

TY, i think this is different from the article in The Economist a week or two ago? That one was interesting as i recall.,.. d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2021, at 03:08, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

In case you missed it, FYI.

Seems to lay things out well. I feel sorry for the int'l team. They didn't decide on/agree to the terms of reference, so the response from the DG on the final report (which he waited for until weighing in) seems disingenuous to me.

From: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 16:40:56 UTC+10:00

To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

"The virus mystery" broadcast on August 12th, drew uncommonly wide attention for a Danish television documentary. That was because it featured Peter Ben Embarek, an expert on food security and zoonotic diseases, casting doubt on the conclusions of a "joint study" on the origins of the covid-19 pandemic carried out earlier this year under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (who). Dr Ben Embarek was the senior who figure who went to China as part of that study.

In March the joint study reported that it was "extremely unlikely" that the virus had been released in a laboratory accident. Dr Ben Embarek revealed that this conclusion did not come from a balanced assessment of all the relevant evidence but from a steadfast refusal by the Chinese members of the joint study to support anything stronger. Indeed they only allowed even that minimal assessment on the condition that the report did not call for further investigation into the question. He also pointed out that the idea that the point of spillover was someone collecting bat samples for research purposes belongs in the "likely" basket, along with other human interactions with wild bats.

Problems in the joint study had long been clear. Within the

who one source describes it as "riddled with compromises and sloppiness". Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the

who's director-general, was uneasy about the way it was carried out. He pushed back at the marginalisation of the lab-leak hypothesis, particularly when the final report was released in March. He has since called for further investigations into it, as well as into other possibilities.

The further unravelling of the joint study matters because, more than a year and a half after the covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan, a city in Hubei, was first recognised as the work of a new pathogen, there has been nothing like a thorough international investigation of how that pathogen,

sars-cov-2, got into humans and spread round the world. The pandemic's death toll stands at 9m-18m, according to a model which *The Economist* has built on the basis of excess-mortality reports and other indicators. The question of how it started matters both for the relatives of the dead and for those who wish to prevent such an outbreak happening again. China's efforts to stop the world from answering it are both shabby and, to an extent, self-defeating. The more the truth seems hidden, the more it seems suspicious.

Earnest calls for an international investigation into the origins of covid-19 began in April 2020, voiced most clearly by Scott Morrison, the prime minister of Australia. The next month the World

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021898
MORENS_NIH_042780
REL0000479208

Health Assembly, the gathering of government representatives which serves as the

who's decision-making body, passed a motion calling for a study into the origins of the pandemic. But in order to be acceptable to China—which had reacted furiously to Mr Morrison's original suggestion—the work was set up as a joint research project between two teams of scientists, one Chinese, one international. And it was to be based on "scientific and collaborative field missions", rather than a targeted and forensic inquiry into all the relevant circumstances.

The terms of reference, which were subsequently negotiated behind closed doors, allowed the Chinese hosts to frame the joint study's work in the way which best suited them. The study was set up to build on pre-existing Chinese research, not to delve into unvetted data. Investigating the laboratories that had been working with coronaviruses like

sars-cov-2 in Wuhan was not part of its terms of reference.

After a lot of wrangling, the international team got to China in January this year. Data about the first reported covid-19 cases, those from December 2019, were one subject of friction with their hosts. The Chinese had reported 174 such cases, but would not share the underlying data on which those reports were based. Hearing that these vital data were not being made available worried Dr Tedros enough that he lobbied the Chinese government for access. The authorities declined, citing concerns over citizens' privacy. It could have been anonymised.

Elsewhere the team appears to have been knowingly misled. Take, for example, the live-animal trade at the Huanan seafood and wildlife market, a site associated with a number of Wuhan's earliest recorded cases of covid-19. In its final report, the study group took at face value claims there was no credible evidence that live mammals were sold there in 2019. A lot of eyewitness accounts gainsay that; so does a study published in *Scientific Reports*, a journal, this summer.

One report and no more

The *Scientific Reports* paper found that 18 species of mammal had been for sale in Wuhan between May 2017 and November 2019; gunshot wounds and trapping injuries suggested that almost a third of them were taken from the wild. Although the paper was published only recently, it was submitted to the journal in October 2020. Chinese law requires that all covid-19 research be reviewed by the government before it is sent to a journal. Some Chinese authorities would have known of its contents before the team arrived.

The market is not the only way for animals and the pathogens they carry to get into Wuhan. The horseshoe bats in which the closest wild relatives to

sars-cov-2 have been found do not live anywhere near the city, but the two laboratories there that were known to have engaged in coronavirus research received samples from bat caves around the country. The joint-study team was not allowed to investigate the procedures around, or documentation of, this research; when it visited the laboratories the team was shown presentations on safety procedures but no more.



When the researchers left Wuhan the

who

's Geneva headquarters told them that their report needed to be laid out scientifically and could express dissenting opinions; the international members and the Chinese members did not have to reach a consensus. However, according to sources within the

who

, the team felt committed to producing a joint report with their Chinese counterparts. Dr Tedros was so unhappy with what finally emerged from the processes that he nobbled the report as it left the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021900
MORENS_NIH_042782
REL0000479208

starting blocks, rejecting its contention that the possibility of a lab leak needed no further investigation.

On May 26th President Joe Biden ordered America's intelligence services to report on the pandemic's origins in 90 days (time will be up on August 24th). When he and his fellow

g7

leaders met in June they joined in calling for a timely, transparent and science-based follow-up study. On July 16th Dr Tedros laid out the next steps which the

who

wants to see taken. They include further work on the Wuhan animal markets, studies of early cases and audits of local laboratories.

The Chinese government has reacted angrily to the idea of further studies on its territory. Zeng Yixin, the vice-minister of China's National Health Commission, said he was "shocked" by the plan to investigate a lab leak, saying it was "impossible" to accept. According to the *Global Times*, a tub-thumping tabloid run by the Communist Party, 55 countries have sent written complaints about the proposal for further investigations to the

who

. Dr Tedros, elected director-general with China's support in 2017 and derided by President Donald Trump as China's puppet, may now face a Chinese-backed candidate when he looks for reappointment later this year.

In the absence of any hope that China will co-operate, sources of data beyond its control have become increasingly important. One area of interest is genetic sequence data. Another is early cases exported from China.

See what you did there

An online open-source-intelligence group which calls itself

drastic

has been scouring sequencing data to get insight into activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (wiv). When researchers publish sequences they typically post the raw data from which those sequences are assembled to public databases such as the sequence-read archive at America's National Centre for Biotechnology Information. Contamination events in the laboratory, or within sequencing machines themselves, mean these data sometimes contain sequences not meant to be there. In theory such evidence could reveal nefarious goings-on.

Such work, while promising, takes a lot of resources. If you have the sort of supercomputers available to America's national labs it gets easier. Gilles Demaneuf, a data scientist who works with

drastic

, says he has a hunch the American intelligence community's 90-day study is working the same angle. It is conceivable that the intelligence services might have been able to filch raw sequence reads directly from Chinese sequencing machines, thus picking up even more data.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021901
MORENS_NIH_042783
REL0000479208

Sequencing data only offers a way forward if the virus did indeed leak out of a lab, something which remains a possibility but which is far from proven. The study of early cases should be useful whatever route it took; the closer you get to understanding the when and where of the crossing-over from animal to human, the easier it should be to learn something of the how.

On the basis of information provided by China the joint study concluded it was unlikely for there to have been any substantial transmission in Wuhan before December 2019. That is unlikely to be true. For one thing the *South China Morning Post*, a newspaper based in Hong Kong, obtained government documents in 2020 which showed one to five new cases a day in Wuhan from November 17th 2019 onwards. Further evidence has strengthened the possibility that the virus could have been in circulation much earlier than the official story allows.

That circulation need not have been limited to China. There is increasing evidence suggesting early infections elsewhere. These cases would have been exported from China; no virologists doubt that Hubei was where the virus got going within humans. But if circulation in Hubei goes back further than thought and cannot be directly assessed through studies there, the presence of cases elsewhere offers an alternative way to get an idea of the timing. If a specific travel link were identified, that might help identify a group in Hubei which was infected early on.

A recent study of blood samples from 9,144 adults in 12 different regions of France found seven which contained antibodies against sars-cov-2, all of them taken in November 2019. An Italian lung-cancer screening trial has found samples taken in September 2019 which seem to contain anti-sars-cov-2 antibodies. Another antibody study suggests the virus was circulating at a low level in northern Italy at the same time, notably in Lombardy, a region which has close connections to Wuhan through the garment trade, and saw Europe's first major outbreak of covid-19 in March 2020.

Antibody tests can give false positives. In a preprint published on August 6th by the *Lancet*, researchers in Lombardy reported on looking instead for

sars-cov-2 gene sequences. Examining 289 swabs and urine tests taken from people who had presented with a rash as far back as the second half of 2019, they found

sars-cov-2 sequences in 13, the earliest of which was taken on September 12th.

Sudhir Kumar of Temple University in Philadelphia says the *Lancet* preprint is likely to inspire other investigators to go back and look at retrospective hospital samples. That should help his own research into the origins of the virus. A family tree Dr Kumar and his colleagues have built from vast numbers of published sars-cov-2 genomes allows them to predict the sequence of the progenitor virus from which they are all descended. This sequence differs in three places from that found in the earliest samples taken from patients in Wuhan, meaning there had been enough spread for a certain amount of viral mutation to take place before December. Dr Kumar says that an analysis of the Lombardy sequences suggests that the timeline for the origin of the virus in China might now extend back to the late summer.

More systematic international research into these early infections and their circumstances is needed. Maria Van Kerkhove, head of emerging diseases and zoonoses at the

who, suggests it may be possible to prioritise work in areas which saw the earliest outbreaks in America, France, Italy and Spain. "I think the floodgates will open one day," says Dr Kumar.

A last line of light

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021902
MORENS_NIH_042784
REL0000479208

An early origin would fit with the timeline that lab-leak proponents tend to favour. Early this August, the minority Republican staff on the House foreign-affairs committee released an 84-page report arguing this case. It makes much of a small but deadly disease outbreak which took place at an abandoned copper mine in Yunnan in 2012. As

drastic showed last year, a virus studied at

WIV which had been taken from that mine is the closest known relative to sars-cov-2.

The report sees importance in the removal, on September 12th 2019, of a database containing details of sequences and samples from the

wiv

. This is read as the beginning of a cover-up, and thus as the point when the authorities first knew something had gone amiss, arguing for a leak in late August or early September. The

wiv

says it was a response to cyber-attacks.

A leak is not the only research-related possibility. The first person infected could have been someone employed by the

wiv

or another lab to collect bats and samples—the prospect to which Dr Ben Embarek pointed in his television interview. And it is important to remember that some other form of spillover outside the lab, either directly from a bat or by way of some other species, may well be to blame.

China clearly does not want lab-leaks investigated; but that does not mean it knows one happened. It is also being misleading about Huanan market, denying access to early-case data and obfuscating in various other non-lab-leak-specific ways. The most obvious explanation is that it does not really want any definitive answer to the question. An unsanitary market, a reckless bat-catcher or a hapless spelunker would not be as bad in terms of blame as a source in a government laboratory. But any definite answer to the origin question probably leaves China looking bad, unless it can find a way to blame someone else. To that end China has called for an investigation of Fort Detrick in Maryland, historically the home of American bioweapons research; state media regularly publish speculations about its involvement.

The possibility of spillover from wild bats does not have to be studied in China. Yunnan abuts onto Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, and bats are not sticklers in matters of territory. Samples taken outside China could provide a good idea of viral diversity the other side of the border. A thorough evaluation of the existing farm-animal and wildlife trade in the region would also be useful.

Yet there is an inherent risk in such work that needs to be considered. Efforts to uncover the roots of covid-19 by seeking out a natural reservoir of something very like

sars-cov-2 would, by definition, expose people to the sort of risks that can seed pandemics. Ironically, the very possibility of a lab leak raises questions about how most safely to pursue investigations into other possibilities.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021903
MORENS_NIH_042785
REL0000479208

When he called for further inquiries in July, Dr Tedros also announced the formation of a new permanent group of pathogen hunters, the International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens (sago). He wants it to organise further studies of

sars-cov-2. But it will also need to look at more general questions for the future—such as how to be sure that, come what may, studies of pathogens involved in past disease outbreaks never create further outbreaks of their own.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 14:34:52 UTC+8:00

To: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

I saw. But it's behind a paywall. U have full access?

From: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 16:23:52 UTC+10:00

To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

icymi

From: [redacted] At: 08/22/21 15:23:17 UTC+8:00

To: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

The Economist | Putting it all together
https://www.economist.com/international/2021/08/19/the-world-needs-a-proper-investigation-into-how-covid-19-started?frsc=dg%7Ce

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021904
MORENS_NIH_042786
REL0000479208

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:41:54 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:41:50 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!
From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
To: [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.png

I agree totally!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

Executive Assistant [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: kuuipo9 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: Re: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

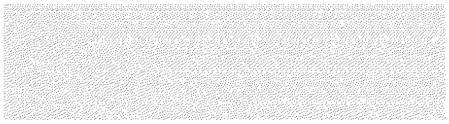
EXTERNAL SENDER

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 -



MORENS_NIH_047684
REL0000479210



Dr Peter Daszak Opening remarks to be submitted to the SSCP ahead of the May 1st hearing.

Chairman Wenstrup, Ranking Member Ruiz, distinguished members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic – it is a privilege to come before you today to discuss the vital research that the EcoHealth Alliance conducts globally and to answer your questions about our work. I respect and appreciate the critical mission of your select subcommittee, which is why I have volunteered to testify before you today and similarly volunteered to participate in a full-day transcribed interview with your committee staff earlier this year.

I am Peter Daszak, the President of EcoHealth Alliance, a 501c3 non-profit based in New York, founded in 1971, with a mission to conduct research on emerging disease threats to the US, identify the underlying causes of pandemics, and develop solutions to prevent them, and benefit conservation. In 2005, EcoHealth's scientists developed the first ever emerging infectious disease "hotspot" map, to chart threats so that we can better target resources to prevent them. Our work and that of many other scientists show that most pandemics originate from animals (mainly wildlife) in rapidly developing countries where people and animals come into direct contact. But, as we saw with COVID-19, once a virus begins to spread, it exploits travel and trade networks, which means a virus emerging anywhere on the planet is a direct threat to all of us here in the USA. Thus our research has direct benefits for the health of the American people, strengthens national security, and enhances sustainable economic growth in our allies around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance scientists have worked in partnership with US Federal Agencies since the early 2000s, with significant funding support from dozens of leading government and philanthropic donors. With NIH funding, we mapped the global spread of high path avian flu and showed its potential to enter the US via trading partners in Canada – information that the Government Accountability Office uses to better target strategic surveillance. With support from the Department of Homeland Security we mapped the likely introduction of emerging viruses via air travel and trade, and the threat they represent to US public health and agriculture. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, we identified the origins of the highly lethal Nipah virus, and discovered that bats are the wildlife reservoirs of MERS SARS, and of a new viral disease that threatens global swine production. In all of our federally-funded projects, we have maintained open, transparent communication with agency staff, rapidly provided information critical to public health and agriculture, uploaded data and genetic sequences into the NIH Genbank database, and published our analyses in scientific journals so that scientists everywhere can use this information.

EcoHealth Alliance's mission has taken us to the places around the world where viruses originate, in countries that represent our first line of defense against the emergence of novel diseases. After the emergence of SARS in the wildlife markets of South China in 2003, we were funded by NIH to identify the origins of this virus. Our work in foreign countries can only happen with the approval of the US funding agency, and the host country government. In China, with approval from NIH and the State Department, we partnered with the country's leading virology lab in Wuhan to do this work, just as many other US government-funded institutions have done. In over a decade of research we successfully showed that SARS coronavirus originated in bats, that there were hundreds of related viral sequences in the country, and that some coronaviruses were able to bind to human cells, giving them the potential to emerge as epidemics. With funding from USAID, we started to build capacity in China to help prevent

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 <b6> wrote:

Peter: This is puerile nonsense! Stay strong!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 6:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; John Feigelson <b6>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Keith Martin <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch <

MORENS_NIH_047686
REL0000479210

b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 ; Keith Martin b6 ; Rich Roberts < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6

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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "McNutt, Marcia K." b6
> **Date:** April 29, 2024 at 3:48:31 PM CDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6, Anthony Fauci < b6 , "Iwasaki, Akiko" < b6 , "Mann, Michael E." < b6 t >
> **Cc:** "Agee, Jennylee" b6 , "Chalfie, Martin" < b6 , Martin Chalfie < b6 , "Everly, Rebecca" b6 Rich Roberts b6
> **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

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
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
b6 b6 (office) | b6 b6 (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences. The information herein is privileged to the Academy. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

On 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 1:57:35 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 1:56:57 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keith Martin [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments: [b6] image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> 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 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

MORENS_NIH_045026
REL0000479212

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 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.

MORENS_NIH_045027
REL0000479212

Key Hearing Takeaways

- NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China.
- Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.
- Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.
- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member Highlights

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's

MORENS_NIH_045028
REL0000479212

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 required deadline. According to the facts gathered by NIH, Dr. Daszak’s sworn testimony appears to be false.

Chairman Wenstrup: “

EcoHealth,

MORENS_NIH_045029
REL0000479212

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 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*

MORENS_NIH_045030
REL0000479212

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, 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*

MORENS_NIH_045031
REL0000479212

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

MORENS_NIH_045032
REL0000479212

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*

MORENS_NIH_045033
REL0000479212

apparent cover-up of something that I think we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV through a grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-

MORENS_NIH_045034
REL0000479212

function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." This type of research is known to be dangerous and even former NIH Director Francis Collins and Dr. Fauci were willing to admit that there are risks associated with this experimentation.
<image003.png>

Rep. Lesko: "*Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?*"

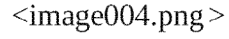
Dr. Tabak: "*It depends on your definition of gain-of-function*

MORENS_NIH_045035
REL0000479212

research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we b6 *generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody*."

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that EcoHealth violated the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak

MORENS_NIH_045036
REL0000479212

falsely testified that he was not required to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.


Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes of Health requested the notebooks from EcoHealth, was EcoHealth required to produce them under its grant terms?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, they were*."
Rep. McCormick: "*When NIH requested notebooks from EcoHealth should EcoHealth have been able to access them or already have*

MORENS_NIH_045037
REL0000479212

access to them?"
Dr. Tabak: "*That's correct.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*They have not.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree with that testimony?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, we disagree with that testimony*."
Rep. McCormick: "*The testimony here today clarifies the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony*

MORENS_NIH_045038
REL0000479212

and the testimony of numerous NIH officials and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty, quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements to the Select Subcommittee right here."

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak

MORENS_NIH_045039
REL0000479212

testified that he would never again support a grant to EcoHealth Alliance to fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan and believes the NIH relied too heavily on Dr. Daszak attestations.

.

<image005.png>

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*As I mentioned, the Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence Grant was an almost $4 million grant that partially went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Wuhan University of Public Health. Do you believe*

this grant was an effective use of taxpayer dollars, and would you support issuing the same grant today?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Well, with the benefit of what we know today, no, of course not.*"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*There is great concern with Dr. Daszak interaction with NIH and NIAID pertaining to the one log growth term of the award. The NIH relied on Dr. Daszak to monitor and report virus growth after being a month late on his annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in*

MORENS_NIH_045041
REL0000479212

the grant. Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too much on Dr. Daszak's self-reporting information?
"

Dr. Tabak: "*Again, with the benefit of hindsight, we did because we never received the information.*
"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*Well, as an ophthalmologist, hindsight is always 20/20.*"

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) revealed NIH's honest viewpoint regarding its funding of EcoHealth's risky research at the WIV. Dr. Tabak testified that NIH

MORENS_NIH_045042
REL0000479212

believed it was not funding any dangerous research prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<image006.png>

Rep. Malliotakis: *"We also know that at least 20 more EcoHealth research projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses, bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions. How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going*

MORENS_NIH_045043
REL0000479212

to do risky experiments in countries where there are subpar safety regulations? And do you believe that should be a criteria that is put forth to ensure that the money doesn't?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Well, again, once we established special conditions for award on EcoHealth Alliance, we have monitored them very carefully with regard to expenditure and with regard to their various administrative processes. There was never a concern with the danger, if you will, of the experiments that NIH*

MORENS_NIH_045044
REL0000479212

approved for EcoHealth Alliance to with under subaward with WIV."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6; Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens b6 Gerald Keusch < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Keith Martin < b6 ; Rich Roberts < b6 >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
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 b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Geoffrey Brumfiel <GBrumfiel@npr.org>
Date: May 17, 2024 at 11:06:26 AM EDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Origins of COVID

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Hi Peter,

We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.

Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
Best,
Geoff

Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | gbrumfiel@npr.org | desk: +1 b6 b6 | cell: +1 b6 b6

Date:	Fri, 28 Oct 2022 12:58:12 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 28 Oct 2022 12:58:08 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: The National Academy of Medicine has exonerated me of breaching their Codes of Conduct
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >;
CC:	Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg

I'll thank whatever influenced the ultimate decision. The fact that it took them so long to dismiss it sounds to me like the political implications for the Academy were high on the list of concerns. At any rate they ultimately did the right thing, just months later than it should have taken.

As far as the crazies, David, they run on steam (fog, bad breath, farts, belches, all, whatever) and do not run out of it. So we need to continue to burst their hot air balloons for the duration.

Jerry

From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: The National Academy of Medicine has exonerated me of breaching their Codes of Conduct

Thank god this sorry debacle is over! It should have never happened in the first place. Let's hope the crazies are starting to run out of steam! David

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Thu, Oct 27, 2022 at 8:30 PM Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

> Dear All,
>
> I just wanted to thank you all in particular for your advice and support on this issue, which I found particularly upsetting given the pride I had in becoming a member of NAM.
>
> Last week I got an email from the Home Secretary (Elena Fuentes-Afflick), cc'd to Victor and Kim Se, that the investigation

was complete and **"There was no evidence that Dr. Daszak violated the National Academy of Medicine's Code of Conduct, and no further action is recommended."** It's a great relief considering the damage it would have done to me and EcoHealth and the way a negative decision would mean partisan politics can undermine science and scientists for pure political gain.

NAM have now notified all members and the Republicans who made the allegations (16 pages of them if you remember). Victor followed up last night with an email to me explaining that he had accepted the Council's recommendation and thanking me for my 'patience'. I responded graciously as follows, even though I believe he should have put a stop to it at the very beginning. I also want to mention that NAM's email to members has been leaked to Jon Cohen at Science, and that the Republicans will no doubt leak the decision and use it to accuse scientists of 'covering up' my crimes etc. I'm saying this just in case you get requests from reporters. Here's my exchange with Victor:

Dear Victor,

Thank you for your email. I'm sure you can imagine how difficult these last almost 3 years have been for me, my family, and our organization. I'm extremely grateful for the professionalism that you and The NAM have brought in dealing with this issue in particular and the challenges we've all faced through the pandemic.

I look forward to returning to NAM and NASEM duties as soon as possible and remain as enthusiastic, and optimistic as ever about our role in ensuring that science is understood by all, and serves us all.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

From: Dzau, Victor J [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 12:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: Re: confidential

Peter,
I have accepted the findings of the review committee which is thorough, fair and clear. Thanks for your patience.
Best,
Victor

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012876
MORENS_NIH_024392
REL0000479214

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ptez, Peter Jay b6
>
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <
b6
Subject: RE: another awful Sachs youtube video

Peter:

Just awful. He admits he has no evidence, but that doesn't stop him.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6
Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio <
b6
Subject: another awful Sachs youtube video

EXTERNAL SENDER

From 15mins on he talks about how I lied, our group lied, and how we're a small group with the "inside track" to NIH etc.

It's delusional and pretty offensive, frankly.

I didn't watch much of it, I have to write a grant application – unlike Jeff Sachs, I don't make my money from talking to the press and trashing other people…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=morj- 3rdWwM&t=73s

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +[b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:28 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: 'David Morens' <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; 'Jeff Sturchio' <[b6]>
Subject: A barrage of attacks against EHA in last week
Importance: High

I don't know if you're seeing any of the bad press we've been getting in the last few days, but it's been a rollercoaster week for us here.

On the one hand, NIH has finally reversed the suspension of our China R01! We're currently renegotiating the terms, albeit without the capacity to collaborate with the WIV. We also got the notice of award on a new R01 to work in Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to conduct human sampling in communities and clinics, and sampling of bats to identify the risk factors and degree of bat-CoV spillover in the region. Both are great news for us, but as soon as NIH put this on their public website, the harassment started.

We've now had articles in the Daily Mail, US Right to Know, The Intercept, https://theintercept.com/2022/10/04/ecohealth- alliance-lab-leak-nih-grant/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social &utm_campaign=theintercept

.. and just now in the Financial Times criticizing the govt for funding us. https://www.ft.com/content/5504ad3a- eef2-49eb-b8dc-2a417d6f711c

One particularly hurtful quote in the FT is from Andrew Weber, who we previously had as a speaker at one of EcoHealth's Cosmos Club events in DC:
"Andrew Weber, who was assistant secretary of defence in the Obama administration and is now a senior fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, called the work **'reckless, risky research with virtually no benefit to humanity**'". I get it that he has a political agenda, but surely anyone with half a brain can see that there's a benefit to finding out what viruses are spilling over from wildlife into people, particularly when they belong to the same viral clade as the one that caused SARS and COVID, and are infecting 60,000 people a year in SE Asia. What small minded person would allow politics to cloud their logic so blatantly.

We've also got Sen. Joni Ernst filing a bill to defund EcoHealth of all federal funding, and letters back and forth from the usual suspects (Republican members of Congress and Senators) attacking us with wild accusations of coverups and nefarious behavior.

Add to that a GAO request for a pile of documents (because Republicans asked them), and our first subpoena for documents.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012878
MORENS_NIH_024394
REL0000479214

These last two mean weeks of work digging through emails, files and records, all for naught…

..and finally a disingenuous letter to NIH and CDC that cites a pile of BS about EcoHealth as an excuse to get CDC and NIH to review biosafety of field programs that work with wildlife – part of a growing anti-science luddism that threatens to close down our work and many others: https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republicans-press-nih-and-cdc-over-safety-gaps-with-virus-hunting-to-prevent-next-pandemic/

Looks like we're in for a rough road ahead…

One silver lining – the Honorable Dr. Fauci defending NIH's decision to fund our new R01 in a podcast: https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1577400180067995659/pu/vid/1284x720/KIyqU6NOK7zjvYio.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich < b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 >; Peter Daszak < b6
>
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 g >; Jeff Sturchio <
b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

Jerry et al.

I am at a meeting in Japan and have been talking with Joe Stiglitz and his b6 who knows Jeff well. b6 convinced he is having mental problems. I will be meeting with them later today and this is one of several items we will discuss.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012879
MORENS_NIH_024395
REL0000479214

Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:18 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 >; Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 >; Jeff Sturchio < b6 >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just got word this afternoon from PNAS that it will appear as early as next Monday, October 10, and that the embargo ends that afternoon, although it may actually appear in any issue next week. Seems a bit strange to me, but the key is its no longer embargoed and will be in the journal next week.

That's an interesting suggestion Peter to compile a packet of key papers. The two questions are which papers, and what do we do with the packet?
As far as Jeff Sachs is concerned nothing surprises me any more. To his credit, he didn't accuse aliens working for the US Space Force of doing – maybe that's the next interview.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Rich Roberts < b6 >; Jeff Sturchio < b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

I saw the Garry rebuttal paper in PNAS which I thought was excellent. What about your paper Jerry? Should all these papers be put together in a packet?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

b6
iPhone

On Oct 3, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7-.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch b6 Peter Daszak b6 g >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 Peter Hotez b6 ; Rich Roberts b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
> **Date:** October 3, 2022 at 06:42:51 EDT
> **To:** David Morens b6 >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012881
MORENS_NIH_024397
REL0000479214

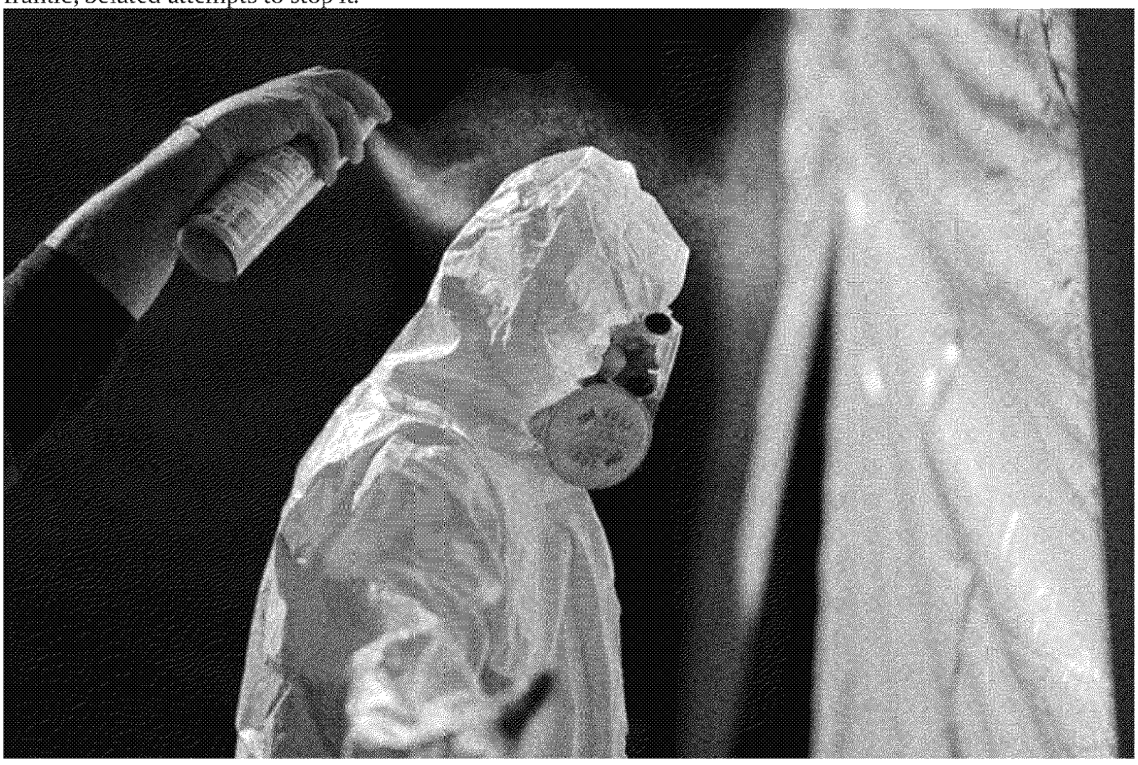
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: October 2, 2022 at 22:54:29 EDT
Subject: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do.

In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, b6 W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

"Nobody," Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, "had any idea." He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus," the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012882
MORENS_NIH_024398
REL0000479214

2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.

"Soothsayer" isn't on Quammen's extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of catastrophe. In 2012 he provided a field guide to the future, "Spillover," whose subtitle — "Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" — explains exactly what the scientific community had long been expecting.

"This is a book about the science of SARS-CoV-2," he specifies in his new book. "The medical crisis of Covid-19, the heroism of health care workers and other people performing essential services, the unjustly distributed human suffering, and the egregious political malfeasance that made it all worse — those are topics for other books." Instead, he focuses his informed attention on the unsung heroes who dare to wrestle with viruses, those strange entities he calls "the dark angels of evolution." Human beings are part of a sprawling family of interconnected species who can share illness because they all grew up together. It is our common ancestry and related bodily ecology that makes spillover possible between, say, bats and Earth's (currently) dominant mammal.

Covid is, after all, as natural as a wolf cub or David Attenborough, and its thriller-level rate of evolution is part of its danger. "A virus is a parasite, yes," writes Quammen, "a genetic parasite, to be more precise, using the resources of other organisms to replicate its own genome." He demonstrates the sheer *weirdness* of viruses when he explains how difficult it is to even define them.

Quammen follows the story of Covid from scientists' first awareness of the outbreak in Wuhan through reports of Omicron in late 2021. Alongside the human story, spillover between humans and other animals is a persistent theme. Early in 2020, a dog in Hong Kong tested positive. There were positive cats in Minnesota, two positive hippos in Antwerp, a positive tiger in Knoxville. An outbreak spread through mink farms in the Netherlands. Last year, of the many white-tailed deer sampled in Pennsylvania, 44 percent tested positive. The persistent danger of spillover between species informs arguments over the virtues and the flaws of both approaches to pandemics: "prediction and prevention versus surveillance and response."

"Breathless" is so good that I was slow to realize that it lacks the vivid you-are-there details of "Spillover." That's because he *wasn't* there. In "Breathless," there are no scenes of an intrepid author helping trap macaques at a Sufi shrine or examining a white-footed mouse for Lyme-infested larval ticks. Among its other virtues, "Spillover" was something of a nightmare travel book, but "Breathless" is a different species of tour de force. Quammen's research methods have mutated. "I avoided airports for more than two years after Covid-19 exploded," he says up front, "and I got through the year 2020 on one tank of gas." Yet these barriers didn't prevent him from writing a luminous, passionate account of the defining crisis of our time — and the unprecedented international response to it. While many people were begging for mercy from the motley of gods that they also credit with designing this Eden for viruses, epidemiologists and vaccine scientists all over the world raced to save the lives of people they would never meet.

Citing Faulkner's multiple narrators, Quammen says, "The discernment of truth — let's make that 'truth,' because it's such an imperious and suspect word — comes from listening to many voices." He read a library's worth of books and Zoomed with some 95 sources — epidemiologists, geneticists and public health officials who were closely involved in research and decision-making. He smoothly weaves not only their facts, but their way of speaking, into his story. "Spoken words are data, in nonfiction," he says, "and I share scientists' respect for the sanctity of data." He provides a mini-biography of each interviewee. Backstage outtakes humanize the participants, as when Quammen asks Anthony Fauci whether Brad Pitt or Kate McKinnon did a better job of satirizing him. These glimpses undergird his assertion that science is "a rational process leading toward ever-clearer understanding of the material world, but it's also an activity performed by humans."

Quammen marries an old-fashioned love of colorful language to his passion for detail — an odd coupling that results not just in a lucid book about an important topic, but also in a book that's a pleasure to read. "What nature of bug seethed in this dollop of liquid human distress?" he asks of a private genome-sequencing company in Guangzhou. Sometimes his Chandleresque metaphors distract. (When the rate of infection among the deer spikes, it's "like popcorn in a hot pan.") Usually, however, his imagery vividly reinforces a point. He explains that a laboratory sample from bat feces "is not a virus, just as the text of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is not a performed play" — that the sample is, instead, "the script of a virus."

Quammen can't resist snarking that Trump, "as you may have heard, is not a scientific sophisticate," but he doesn't waste much time shooting at such an easy target. He describes Elon Musk as an "entrepreneur and spaceman," and Alex Azar, the secretary of health and human services, as "pliable." The "Intelligence Community" is "a bodacious aggregation of intelligences" that includes Space Delta 7 — "within the United States Space Force, whatever that is." Didier Raoult, the French physician who

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012883
MORENS_NIH_024399
REL0000479214

promoted hydroxychloroquine, Quammen terms a "prideful contrarian." Hydroxychloroquine did indeed have a history of prescription for malaria, and, he deduces, presumably, "Trump listened to people who listened to people who listened to Didier Raoult."

While staying on mission, Quammen allows himself room for context. The importance of the February 2020 announcement that scientists had found in pangolins a close match to the virus infecting humans makes more sense — both scientific and narrative — because Quammen begins with a brief survey course on these armored-looking, anteater-like creatures. He smoothly interweaves their evolution, the ecological sin of animal trafficking, the imaginary pharmacological virtues of pangolin scales (which are actually mostly keratin) and the contemporary "vogue in urban China for *ye wei*, or 'wild tastes.'"

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

Michael Sims's books include "Adam's Navel" and a companion volume to the National Geographic Channel series "In the Womb: Animals."

BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012884
MORENS_NIH_024400
REL0000479214

Date: Sat, 23 Jan 2021 8:56:04 PM -0500
Sent: Sat, 23 Jan 2021 8:56:02 PM -0500
Subject: RE: U.S. Department of State: Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [redacted]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]; Peter Daszak [redacted]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [redacted];

OK did it again this morning. That's twice on the same weekend. Wow.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 11:12 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]; Peter Daszak [redacted]
>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
Subject: RE: U.S. Department of State: Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology

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] [redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted] Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
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: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 2:21:05 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 2:21:01 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Initial response from Lauer
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

Peter:

More delays – typical of a bureaucratic response. You may be right about trying to trap you, but I certainly hope not.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Initial response from Lauer

EXTERNAL SENDER

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
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
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
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: b6
Email: b6

From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 5:19 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < b6 >, "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" < b6
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
b6
b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013811
MORENS_NIH_026144
REL0000479220

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 4:39 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013812
MORENS_NIH_026145
REL0000479220

Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: (b) (6)
Email:

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:02 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] ***[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 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

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013813
MORENS_NIH_026146
REL0000479220

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Tue, 8 Jun 2021 7:54:49 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 8 Jun 2021 7:54:40 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: We've lost two significant funders this week
From:	Roberts, Rich [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6]
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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +[b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] Roberts, Rich < [b6]
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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

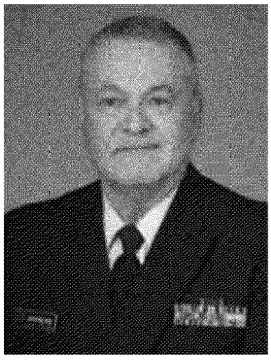
---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak [(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry [(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



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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

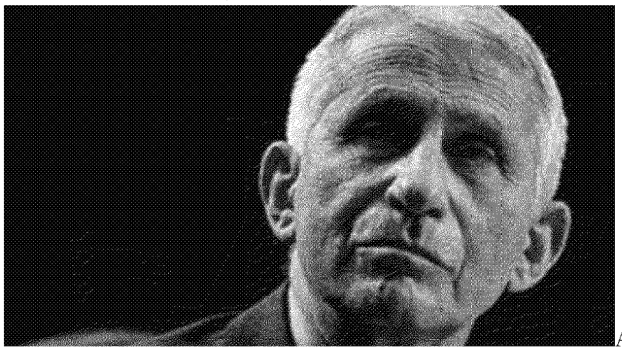
Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017223
MORENS_NIH_035414
REL000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017224
MORENS_NIH_035415
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017225
MORENS_NIH_035416
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017226
MORENS_NIH_035417
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017227
MORENS_NIH_035418
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017228
MORENS_NIH_035419
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017229
MORENS_NIH_035420
REL0000479224

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 further

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017230
MORENS_NIH_035421
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017231
MORENS_NIH_035422
REL0000479224

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017232
MORENS_NIH_035423
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017233
MORENS_NIH_035424
REL0000479224

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017234
MORENS_NIH_035425
REL0000479224

the
world
about
the
deadly
virus
as
soon
as
it
started.

But
barring
solid
evidence
that
the
virus
originated
from
a
Chinese
lab,
Trump
remains
the
villain
—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

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, 11 Jun 2021 4:19:41 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 11 Jun 2021 4:16:23 PM -0400
Subject: RE: House E&C Republicans Send Second Letter to NIH Director Regarding Grants Issued to EcoHealth Alliance
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6 Keusch, Jerry b6 Rich Roberts b6
Attachments: b6

Allow me to translate to common language: "Republicans carry on bullying small New York non-profit, demanding they spend weeks of work finding and turning over private documents so they can weaponize them in their fight against Biden, even though they already canceled the funding and the organization doesn't have the staff to do the work." Etc. etc.

Just disgusting. This is like standing in full view of the world with our hands up, while the firing squad raises their guns.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6 Rich Robert b6
Subject: FW: House E&C Republicans Send Second Letter to NIH Director Regarding Grants Issued to EcoHealth Alliance

David

David M. Morens, M.D.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016351
MORENS_NIH_034478
REL0000479226

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
- [b6] assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- [b6]
- [b6]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:48 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: House E&C Republicans Send Second Letter to NIH Director Regarding Grants Issued to EcoHealth Alliance

E&C Republicans Send Second Letter to NIH Director Regarding Grants Issued to EcoHealth Alliance

---

06.10.21

Washington, D.C. — Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a second letter to National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins, today asking NIH to produce grant reports and related documents to inform a complete, scientific investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The letter states:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016352
MORENS_NIH_034479
REL0000479226

"The Chinese Communist government has not yet allowed Chinese scientists to cooperate with an investigation into COVID-19 origins, and has admitted to destroying samples and records pertinent to such an investigation. Thus, it is imperative we assemble all data and information in U.S. possession about bat coronavirus research experiments and lab safety protocols from all sources outside of China, particularly from EcoHealth Alliance (EHA). EHA is an NIH grantee who has been involved in bat coronavirus research in China and has issued grant subawards to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). It is also essential to collect information about the WIV, the laboratory that was conducting bat coronavirus experiments located in Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak. **As a federal cognizant grant-making agency that funded bat coronavirus research at the WIV through EHA awards, NIH is in a unique position to share publicly detailed research reports in its possession. Importantly, NIH has full access to EHA records and EHA has refused to cooperate with our inquiry. Therefore, it is critical for NIH to cooperate with our objective fact-finding investigation as we continue to collect data about U.S. funded bat coronavirus research."**

The Republicans on Energy and Commerce ask asking for reports and documents related to:

- **NIH's Award of $2 million to EHA Despite Grant Suspension**
- **NIH's Inadequate Oversight of EHA's Other Support**
- **NIH's Inadequate Oversight of EHA's Delinquent Financial Reports**
- **NIH's Possible Funding of EHA for Duplicative Research in China**
- **NIH's Inadequate Reconciliation of EHA's Grant Subawards**
- **NIH's Inadequate Oversight of EHA's Place of Performance Reporting (China)**
- **NIH's Lack of Visibility into EHA's Grant Subawards**
- **NIH's Inadequate Oversight of EHA's Grant Fund Accounting and Eligibility**
- **NIH's Inadequate Oversight of Its Funded Researchers in China**
- **NIH's Lack of Cooperation with Congressional Oversight Inquiry**

CLICK HERE to read the letter to NIH Director Collins.

CLICK HERE to read about the COVID-19 origins investigation.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:35 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:49 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:29 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >, Peter Daszak
b6 >, David Morens b6 >,
Aleksei Chmura < b6

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" b6
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6 >
Cc: "Roberts, Rich" b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio
b6 >, Peter Daszak < b6
David Morens b6 >, Aleksei Chmura
b6 >
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002567
MORENS_NIH_009083
REL0000479227

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fc
theories-covid-19-commission%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C6b39cf14815a4f162c7e08db8a0f3504%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=YE6WuhDLi00eeQqpFEbA4xxPIoDEZ9fyzH5PsdLhedU%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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > 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 [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
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 [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can’t bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children’s Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002569
MORENS_NIH_009085
REL0000479227

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 > wrote:

It's just

b6

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > 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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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_002572
MORENS_NIH_009088
REL0000479227

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 > 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_002573
MORENS_NIH_009089
REL0000479227

Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens
[b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura
[b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>
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

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of 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_SUBPOENA_002574
MORENS_NIH_009090
REL000479227

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 1:33:41 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 1:33:21 PM -0400
Subject: Implications of Reschenthaler amendment for NIH
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Robert Kessler b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6

David – one of the concerns here is that this amendment would have serious implications for other agencies, like NIH, because it means that a single member of congress can circumvent the independence of an agency and remove funding for specific organizations without any due process.

Please let me know by email or by a call on my cell b6 what we should do and who we should reach out to.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
To: 'David Morens b6 }; Keusch, Gerald T b6 'Roberts, Rich' b6
Cc: 'Robert Kessle b6
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010681
MORENS_NIH_021228
REL0000479232

If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)' <[b6 >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)' <
b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6 >; Robert Kessler <[b6 Jeff Sturchio (
b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010682
MORENS_NIH_021229
REL0000479232

the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) <Brooke_b6_gov >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) <Gilbert_b6_
Cc: Dennis Carroll b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; Robert Kessler <b6
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.

Thanks for making time!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010683
MORENS_NIH_021230
REL0000479232

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) <[b6]>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g>; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) <[b6]
Cc: Dennis Carroll [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler <
[b6]
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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) [b6]
Cc: Dennis Carroll <[b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler <
[b6]
Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
Importance: High

Dear Brooke,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.

As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!

You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.

I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010684
MORENS_NIH_021231
REL0000479232

Tel.: [redacted]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:55:38 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:55:34 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Science Speaks: Clues to COVID origins via Wuhan wet market study 2017-2019 of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >
To: David Morens b6 b6 >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6
Subject: FW: Science Speaks: Clues to COVID origins via Wuhan wet market study 2017-2019 of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022904
MORENS_NIH_043910
REL0000479233

From Uncle Dan Lucey…..

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
- b6 b6 b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 6:13 PM
Subject: Science Speaks: Clues to COVID origins via Wuhan wet market study 2017-2019 of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome

Science Speaks: Global ID News

Clues to COVID origins via Wuhan wet market study 2017-2019 of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome

July 15, 2021.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022905
MORENS_NIH_043911
REL0000479233

By Daniel R. Lucey MD, MPH, FIDSA

Retrospective testing for SARS-CoV-2 virus and antibody could be (or has been) done using blood and other samples highly likely to have been obtained from the 18 mammalian species (including masked palm civet, racoon dogs, and mink) reported in the Wuhan wet markets, May 2017-November 2019, as part of a study on "Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia (SFTS)" published not until June 7, 2021.

Photos from the Wuhan Huanan seafood market include racoon dogs, hedgehogs, bamboo rats, and badgers with the description of **"Poor welfare of animals on sale in Huanan seafood market."**

A tick found on a hedgehog is emphasized in the legend to Figure 2, given that ticks are thought to be the main transmission route from animals to humans of the bunyavirus first discovered in a 2009 outbreak in Hubei and Henan provinces of Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome. (An aerosol route is less commonly implicated in nosocomial, familial, and other cases of persons-to-person transmission of this bunyavirus causing SFTS).

Although *not explicitly stated* in this June 7 paper in *Nature*, it is highly likely that samples of blood and perhaps respiratory and other types of samples from the animals surveyed on a monthly basis in Wuhan wet markets from May 2017-November 2019 would have been obtained.

In addition, blood samples from humans working in these wet markets, including the Wuhan Huanan seafood market, would very likely have been obtained to test for bunyavirus and antibody to the bunyavirus that causes SFTS. (Less likely, even respiratory samples from humans may have been obtained).

Such samples from both animals and humans in the Wuhan wet markets could be tested for antibody to SARS-CoV-2, as well as any respiratory samples for SARS-CoV-2 itself, month-by-month over 30 months from May 2017-November 2019.

If antibody-negative results were demonstrated in 2017 and 2018, followed by some antibody (and perhaps virus)-positive results in 2019, **then a "look back" retrospective study of the supply chain of animals and the epidemiology of the humans could provide clues to the COVID origins in terms of emergence timeline, geography, animal species, and human infections.**

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 27 May 2024 5:17:18 PM -0400
Subject: Re: RE: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
From: b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/23/24 10:13, Keusch, Gerald wrote:

Dear David and Peter,

You are both exemplars of what science is all about, the search for knowledge in an objective and self-correcting manner, by asking questions, getting information, analyzing it, forming conclusions subject to new questions and new investigation in a never ending process.

You are both extremely brave in facing the attacks you are enduring. You both, as we all do, have rights to your own opinions and decisions and I do not think the US Constitution bans humor, whether dark, cynical, or biting, or even goofy. It does not even ban obscenities.

Your obligation as a federal employee was to keep government business out of private conversation and you cannot be faulted for keeping private conversations out of government business. All of this was in the midst of a deadly pandemic when the US endured the greatest death rate per capita than any other advanced wealthy nation in my opinion primarily because of wrong decisions made by its leadership at the time. Humor of any shade is a way to deal with such terrible events unfolding in front of you and out of your control. It was worse to me than the other pandemic I faced in my professional career, the early days of AIDS, because then we had nothing available to address the underlying problem but only band-aids for its consequences. For COVID we quickly learned what public health measures would reduce the impact of infection and it was possible to quickly create vaccines based on decades of prior basic research and field surveillance. The game changer vaccines worked for those who were accepting. Those who didn't, in large part due to the strange twist of privacy over public good in the media and social media and the lasting influence of the anti-vaccine movement, suffered from greater complications and more death in every age group assessed.

Stay strong and ever cognizant that the only issues I believe were behind all of these conversations were to protect the American people (and so people everywhere in the world) from this deadly virus at the same time protecting the integrity of science itself from politically and ideologically driven attacks. Those are not illegal motivations underlying frank conversations among long time friends and colleagues.

Jerry

From: kuuipo9 b6
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 >
Subject: Re: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing

MORENS_NIH_047995
REL0000479236

Peter. thanks for looking into this, as it was one of the most indefensible charges against me, and when told I had helped you write this letter I told them I don't remember doing so and if I did it i was wrong, as you saw if you watched the show yesterday.

Uncovering this item won't have any impact on clearing my name, but as I am really depressed this morning, it cheers me up a bit. Thank you for being a true friend and for taking the time to cheer me up in the midst of your far worse troubles

Whatever mistakes I made, and however poor my judgment and understanding of nih do's and don'ts, I was trying to do the right thing to help you. One of the reasons i made what turned to be a very bad choice to not take the 5th, was so that i could push back against accusations based on incorrect interpretations. i am sure there are many other items like this. I know you know that on many occasions I explained to you all of the many things I couldn't do to help you directly, and also the things that I could do. But I will never get a chance to correct or explain them.

My worst mistake was writing jokey emails that will be used against Tony. I wish there was something I could do to help him at this point, but there isn't. Hopefully the harm to him will be minimal. My foolishness has harmed at least two people I consider innocent, which is actually worse than losing my job and facing prosecution.

But once I become retired, I will be able to do whatever I can to help friends such as you and to defend and speak up for science. And, being a historian myself, I fully expect we all will eventually be substantially if not completely vindicated

In the meantime, Hang in there and look for light at the end of the tunnel. Also, please give my best to rhe many fine and honorable people who work with you at EHA, and particularly Billy, Jon, and Kevin
d
Sent from Proton Mail Android

------ Original Message ------
On 5/22/24 23:25, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Jerry and David,
>
> Today in David Morens' hearing, the SSCP asked questions about an email wherein David allegedly assisted me with the reinstatement of my R01. They refer to an email on Oct 24th 2021 in their report here: https://oversight.house.gov/release/new- covid-select-memo-details-allegations-of-wrongdoing-and-illegal-activity-by-dr-faucis-senior-scientific-advisor/
>
> It didn't sound correct to me, so I went through my email records and have located a chain that I began on 10/24/2021, that was me drafting a response to Michael Lauer's questions about the late year 5 report for the grant. This was NOT related to reinstating the grant – at that point, the grant was suspended and we were getting repeated questions about it, and there was not the slightest hint that it would be reinstated.
>
> As you'll see by looking at the 1st email attached above – I send an email to both of you asking for advice on how to word the response to Michael Lauer, because you both are knowledgeable on issues of virology and both have experience with the type of bureaucratic questions I was being asked by NIH Office of the Director. I didn't consider this a conflict for David, because he's not part of the official decision making on this grant – by that time all decisions since 2020 had been overseen by O/D NOT NIAID, and I was under clear instructions to communicate with NIH O/D. I don't think that even Dr. Fauci had any capacity to decide on this.
>
> Despite what's said in the SSCP report, and in David's hearing, I remembered, and it's shown in the email chains above, that David said he would suggest some 'wordsmithing', but in fact DID NOT. The emails clearly show that you spoke with others at NIAID, and that they suggested you should not be involved in this, and in fact you did not edit the letter, or even suggest edits. It's all there in the emails above.

I don't know what value this has now, considering that the public hearing has been and gone, but I felt it was important to share these, in case any of us are asked about them – from what I see, you checked with your superiors and then diplomatically cut yourself out of the editing chain.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_NIH_047997
REL0000479236

Date:	Mon, 10 May 2021 2:08:06 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 10 May 2021 2:03:06 PM -0400
Subject:	Letter to science from David Relman criticizing WHO report
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments:	b6

Just sharing this letter that will come out in Science on Thursday. It's reasonable and balanced, but it will be used by the press to hype up the lab-leak again, and claim that scientists are breaking rank with the narrative pushed by me (the lancet paper) and others (the Nature paper on origins).

I spoke with Ralph about it – he signed on because it was reasonable and didn't attack gain of function. I think it will be damaging, but am certainly not talking to journalists about it. This is for WHO to deal with, in my opinion.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: James Gorman b6
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >; Robert Kessler b6
Subject: upcoming letter in Science

Hi Peter,

A group of lab scientists, many of whom haven't been heard from before, have joined in criticism of WHO report and the idea that a lab leak is highly unlikely.

This seems to be a change in who is taking up the idea that a new investigation is needed. I don't want to try to adjudicate all the arguments in covering this but I've attached the advance media copy of the letter which is embargoed until Thursday at 2 p.m. and wonder if you could comment on a couple of things.

What do you think about a new investigation as they describe it in the letter?

And has your view of the likelihood of an accidental lab leak changed at all?

They treat both theories, accidental lab leak and natural origin, as equivalent. (accidental lab leak in their view does not require that SARS-CoV-2 is a result of laboratory experimentation. It includes a natural origin of the virus or a near ancestor somehow infecting one of the lab staff.)

--

James Gorman
jmg@nytimes.com
@jimgorman

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, 24 Mar 2023 9:43:15 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 24 Mar 2023 9:43:07 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
To:	Jeffrey Sturchio [b6];
CC:	David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

I agree

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Mar 24, 2023, at 8:33 AM, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

This is madness! Yet another reason why the Biden Administration should have appointed a strong new Director of NIH some time ago.

JLS

From: David Morens [b6]

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]; peter hotez [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Fri, Mar 24, 2023, 09:17 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" [b6]
Date: March 23, 2023 at 20:33:18 EDT
Subject: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images
● Henry Rodgers Chief National Correspondent
March 23, 2023 9:44 AM ET
Republican Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Rep. Chip Roy will introduce legislation Thursday that would eliminate the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
The Daily Caller first obtained a copy of the bill, which is titled the NIH Reform Act. The bill would specifically replace the NIAID with three separate national research institutes that would be led by directors subject to Senate confirmation and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.
The three new institutes would be the National Institute of Allergic Diseases, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Immunologic Diseases. The directors of each new institute would be appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation, and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.
"We've learned a lot over the past few years, but one lesson in particular is that no one person should be deemed 'dictator-in-chief.' No one person should have unilateral authority to make decisions for millions of Americans," Paul told the Daily Caller before introducing the legislation. **(RELATED: Rand Paul Introduces Legislation To Repeal Federal Mask Mandate For Public Transportation)**
"To ensure that ineffective, unscientific lockdowns and mandates are never foisted on the American people ever again, I've introduced this bill to eliminate Dr. Anthony Fauci's previous position as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and divide the role into three separate new institutes. This will create accountability and oversight into a taxpayer funded position that has largely abused its power and has been responsible for many failures and misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.
READ THE LEGISLATION HERE:

(DAILY CALLER OBTAINED) — ... by Henry Rodgers

"From the earliest days of the pandemic, unaccountable public health bureaucracies proved themselves far more adept at ruining lives than saving them. Never again should a single individual, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, wield

MORENS_NIH_012628
REL0000479253

unchecked power and influence over the lives of the American people. Breaking up Dr. Fauci's taxpayer funded bully pulpit into three separate agencies — and requiring Senate confirmation for all their future directors — is one of many actions necessary to allow the American people to hold public health agencies accountable," Roy, who introduced an identical House version of the bill, said in a statement. **(RELATED: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul Demands NIH Preserve All Documents, Communications In Fauci's Possession)**

The legislation is currently cosponsored by Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Indiana Sen. Mike Braun and Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 11:02:38 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 11:02:09 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC:	Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.png; image008.png

Good one Rich!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 10:23 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich < b6 Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6
>; David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

US RTK

U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

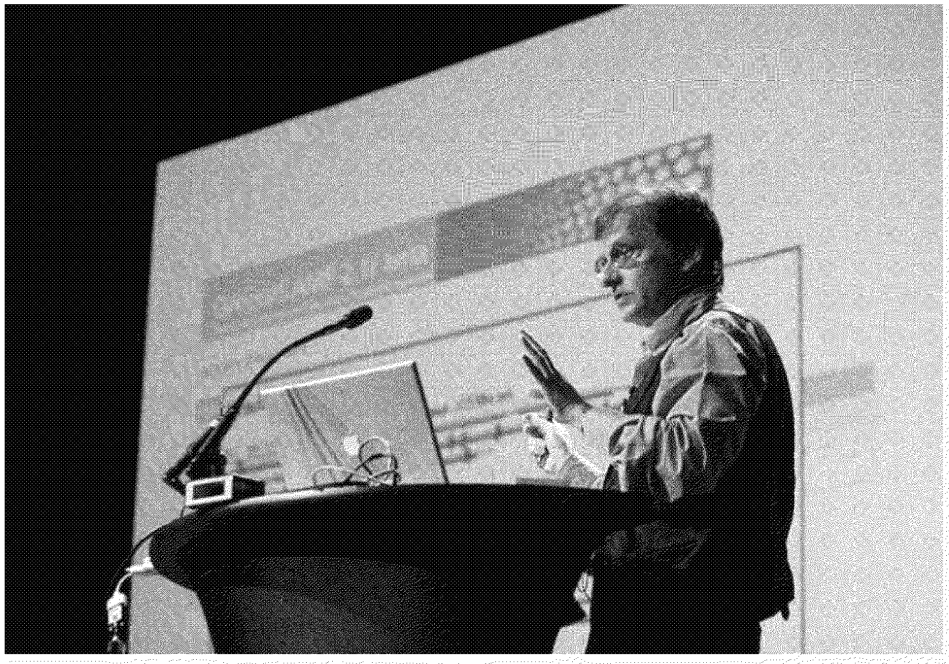
PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

Print Email Share Tweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008034
MORENS_NIH_017399
REL0000479256



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 Medicin*e," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology
0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak [b6 g] >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008037
MORENS_NIH_017402
REL0000479256

Cc: Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens <
b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008038
MORENS_NIH_017403
REL0000479256

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet 'Statement of support' we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as "that individual". De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he'll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here's today's gloating article by the "White Coat Waste" celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs' Lancet Commission report will now do.

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

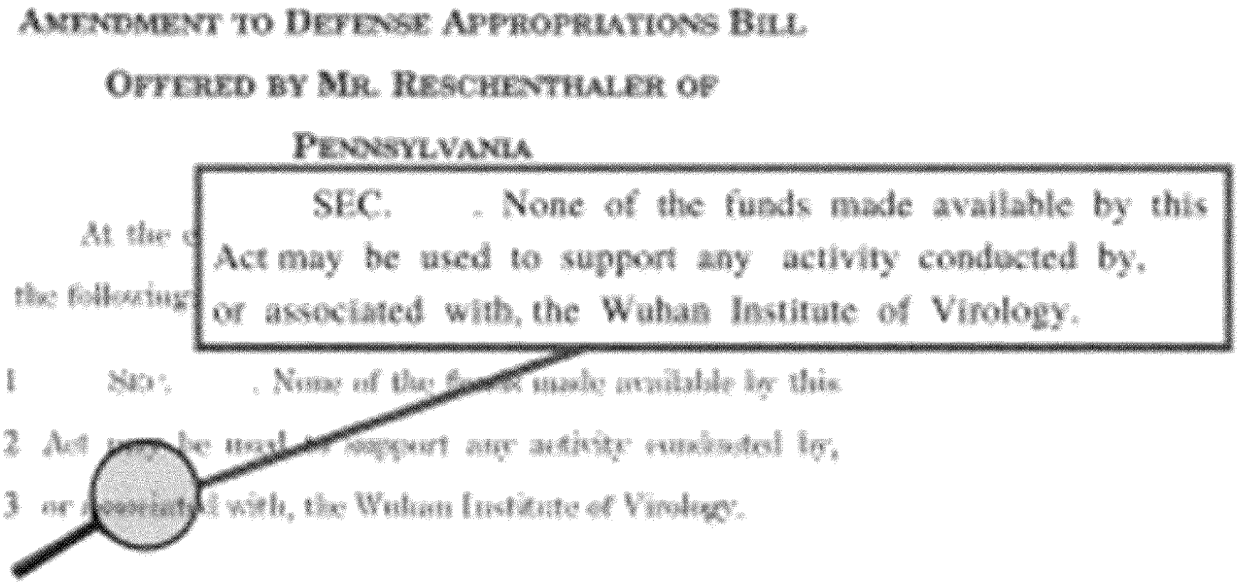
PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S.

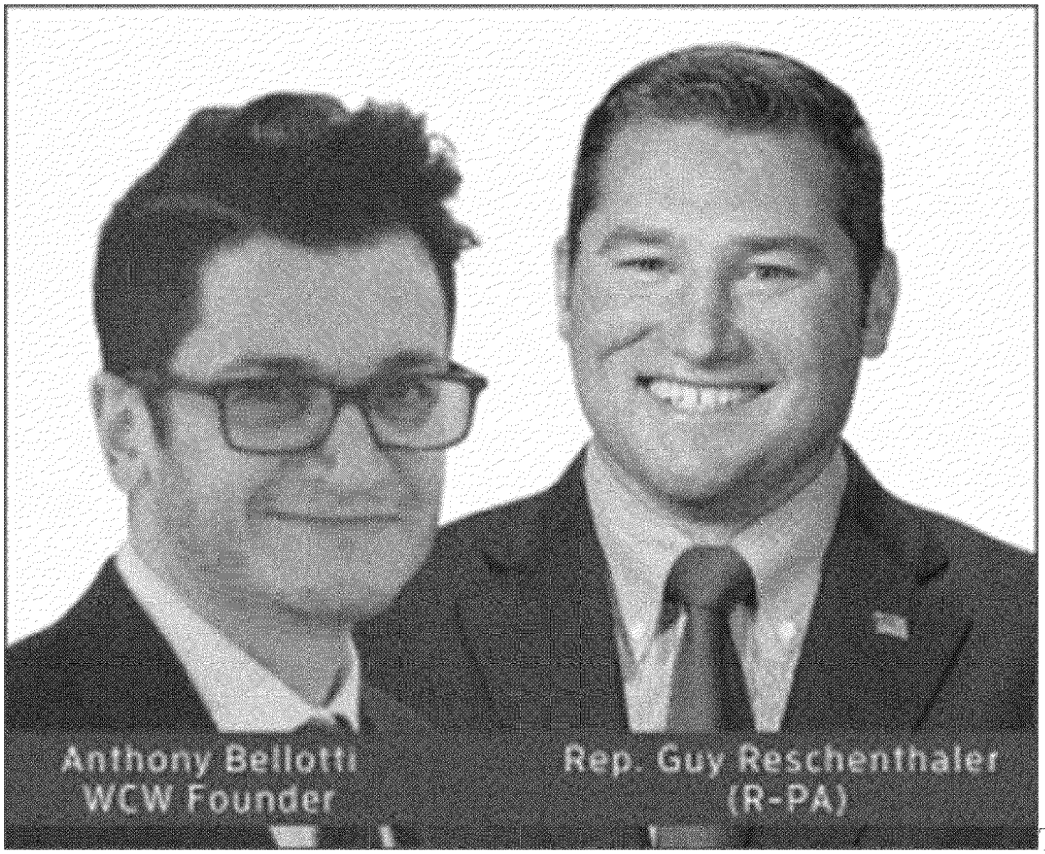
taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now **says** that the lab leak hypothesis deserves "further investigation."

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.


AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL
OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF
PENNSYLVANIA

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008040
MORENS_NIH_017405
REL0000479256



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_008041
MORENS_NIH_017406
REL0000479256

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 David Morens < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008042
MORENS_NIH_017407
REL0000479256

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 (b) (6)
Phone:
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008043
MORENS_NIH_017408
REL0000479256

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Ja b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6

Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs b6
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008045
MORENS_NIH_017410
REL0000479256

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On 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 b6 > wrote:

Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008046
MORENS_NIH_017411
REL0000479256

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008047
MORENS_NIH_017412
REL0000479256

On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs < b6 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 < b6 wrote:
>
> Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.
>
> One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.
>
> Thank you! Peter
>
> **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
> Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
> Health Policy Scholar
> Baylor College of Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008048
MORENS_NIH_017413
REL0000479256

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor
https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <

b6 wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

> Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 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*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008050
MORENS_NIH_017415
REL0000479256

evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor
https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels <b6
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor <b6; Zinabou, Genet <b6 ariarte, Maria Choyette Umali <b6 >; Alejandro Gaviria <b6; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <b6; Bottazzi, Maria Elen b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay <
b6
b6 ; Lara Aknin <
b6 ; Chandrika Bahadur <
b6 >; Lauren Barredo <
b6 Chris Bullen <
b6 >; gaby cuevas <
b6 Andrew Haines <

b6 >; Neena Joshi <
b6 Ozge Karadag Karadag <
Phoebe Koundouri <
b6 Gabriela <b6
>; Morales, Andrés <b6
b6 Francesca Colombo <
b6 Guillaume
Lafortune <b6 Jeff
Sachs b6 ; Yanis Ben Amor <
b6 Emma Torres <
George Laryea-Adjei <
Uyen Kim Huynh <
b6 b6 <
b6 >; Vaira Vike Freiberga <
b6
b6 b6
Kirsten Brosbøl b6
b6
Juan Pablo Cadena <b6 >; John
Thwaites b6
Jong-Koo Lee <b6 Booyuel Kim <
b6 Muhammad Ali Pate <
b6 >; Miriam Khamadi Were <
b6 b6
b6
b6 >; Marissa VanRy <
b6 ; Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <
b6 Susan Michie <b6
Jeffrey Lazarus <b6 >;
Margaret Hellard <b6 >;
Shweta Khandelwal b6 ;
Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) <
b6
Cc: Juliana Bartels b6
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point

response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie
--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
(b) (6)

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008054
MORENS_NIH_017419
REL0000479256

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Tue, 11 Jun 2024 3:03:33 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 11 Jun 2024 3:03:21 PM -0400
Subject: Re: A dangerous paper
From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>;
CC: David Morens [b6] [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

Well done Rich. What I've seen for the last four years is a full on strategic plan to co-opt the weaknesses in peer review to get conspiracy theories published to give them some legitimacy. It's really important to try point this out to editors. Let's hope they take action.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

[b6]

On Jun 11, 2024, at 12:48 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

Hi:

Got this from the editor of BMJ. My letter is at the bottom.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Helena Legido-Quigley [b6]

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 12:28 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: RE: A dangerous paper

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Sir Rich Roberts,

Thank you for your email and for expressing your concerns regarding the publication of our paper, "Excess mortality across countries in the Western World since the COVID-19 pandemic: 'Our World in Data' estimates of January 2020 to December 2022" in BMJ Public Health.

We take all feedback seriously and appreciate your input. I have forwarded your concerns to our Research Integrity Team, which is currently reviewing the issues raised and will ensure appropriate steps are taken to address them.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Sincerely,

Prof. Legido-Quigley

From: Roberts, Rich
Sent: 11 June 2024 15:54
To: Helena Legido-Quigley
Subject: A dangerous paper

- External Email -

Dear Dr. Legido-quigley:

I was very alarmed when you published this paper

Excess mortality across countries in the Western World since the COVID-19 pandemic: 'Our World in Data' estimates of January 2020 to December 2022 | BMJ Public Health

I don't know who you used for peer reviewers, but the study is not the best and should not have been accepted without some serious revisions pointing out that it was not the vaccines that caused the excess deaths. Did it not occur to you that this would lead to a plethora of misinformation soaring around the web and promoting many anti-vaccination players.

I would suggest you consider either retracting the paper, or at the very least contacting the authors to clarify the message.

Sincerely

Rich Roberts

Sir Richard J. Roberts Ph.D. F.R.S.
1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine
Chief Scientific Officer
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723 USA

MORENS_NIH_051401
REL0000479268

Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Important: This email is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify us immediately; you should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person. Thank you.

Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 11:46:45 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 5:30:25 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Epoch Times' story on NIH's latest action
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>;
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Attachments: image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.png; image004.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

It's a horrible antivaccine antiscience rag

https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/01/inside- the-epoch-times-a-mysterious-pro-trump-newspaper/617645/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Aug 20, 2022, at 2:27 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Here's Epoch Times today. They emailed me for comment, but by the time the email arrived, the story had already been posted! Not that I would have responded, of course – Epoch Times is funded by the Falun Gong movement and has been stirring the pot on this since January 2020. They also referred to SARS-CoV-2 as "CCP virus" in previous posts.

The comments at the end from Representative Comer are worth reading. He threatened further action earlier today on the Republican Oversight Committee member's twitter account
https://twitter.com/GOPoversight/status/1560752262175137794?s=20 &t=8uqpqKwIR-hKM-jF1Yw4hQ

"NIH confirms EcoHealth violated grant terms to hide risky research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan but will continue receiving taxpayer-funded grants. NIH only ended EcoHealth's partnership with the WIV. This is unacceptable. Oversight & accountability are coming in 2023."



The P4 labThe P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on April 17, 2020. (AFP via Getty Images/Hector Retamal)oratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology is designated to be at the highest level of biological safety in Wuhan, China, on April 17, 2020. (AFP via Getty Images/Hector Retamal)

US NEWS

US National Institutes of Health Ending Subaward for Lab in Wuhan, China

By Zachary Stieber

August 20, 2022 Updated: August 20, 2022

Print
0:005:09
1

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) has ended a subgrant to the laboratory in China located where the first COVID-19 cases were identified in 2019.

U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance was granted $3.7 million, starting in 2014, to study bat-related coronaviruses. It conveyed some of the money to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), located in China.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010761
MORENS_NIH_021311
REL0000479272

The grant was renewed in 2019, but suspended in 2020 because of concerns the grantees were failing to comply with conditions attached to the money.

The NIH's review of the concerns has concluded, Dr. Michael Lauer, an NIH deputy director, revealed in a letter on Aug. 19. It determined that all of the problems cannot be fixed.

Therefore, the NIH informed EcoHealth Alliance that the subaward to the Wuhan lab is terminated "for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request," Lauer wrote to Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.), the top Republican on the House Oversight Committee.

'Cannot Be Remedied'

Grants from the U.S. government come with certain conditions, including timely reporting of results, and adequate monitoring of experiments.

The EcoHealth Alliance failed to perform a review of the research conducted under the grant, which included making bat coronaviruses more dangerous, the NIH said in October 2021. The agency in January said EcoHealth Alliance failed to comply with other conditions with the grant, R01AI110964, and other awards.

The NIH asked for plans to correct the failures, which was provided on Feb. 4, Lauer said Friday, and the NIH determined that the plans were sufficient.

Separately, though, the NIH asked EcoHealth in late 2021, and again in January, for lab notebooks and original files from the research conducted at the Wuhan lab. It has not received them, according to the new letter.

EcoHealth executives have said that it passed along the request but have not heard back from WIV.

The refusal to provide the materials led to the just-announced termination of the subaward.

"NIH has determined that WIV's refusal to provide the requested records, and EHA's failure to include the required terms in WIV's subaward agreement represent material failures to comply with the terms of award," Lauer told Drs. Aleksei Chmura and Peter Daszak, the executives, in a letter released on Friday by Comer. "NIH has further determined that in these circumstances, WIV's refusal to provide records cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, and that a partial termination of award (i.e.,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010762
MORENS_NIH_021312
REL0000479272

termination of the subaward to WIV) is the only appropriate action."

EcoHealth did not respond to requests for comment. An email sent to the Wuhan lab bounced back.

Will Keep Funding EcoHealth

The NIH is not terminating any of the awards in question, R01AI110964, 1U01AI151797-01, and 1U01AI153420-01—at least for now.

When grantees are not compliant with requirements, the preference is to work with them to bring them into compliance rather than termination, Lauer said.

EcoHealth has successfully implemented the NIH-approved corrective plans for the latter two awards, according to the NIH. While EcoHealth will be forbidden to dole money out to WIV under the other grant, it will be able to renegotiate the objectives of the grant with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, led by Dr. Anthony Fauci.

If an agreement is reached, the revised grant will move forward. If it is not, the grant may be terminated.

EcoHealth was asked to outline within 30 days how it will accomplish the purpose of the grant without WIV. That will require a change in scope but the change may not depart significantly from the original project, Lauer said.

Comer said the NIH should have ended the award entirely.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum. It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract," he said.

"EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money," he added.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010763
MORENS_NIH_021313
REL0000479272

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'David Morens' b6 ; 'Gerald T Keusch' < b6 Jeff Sturchio' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010764
MORENS_NIH_021314
REL0000479272

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens < b6 Gerald T Keusch < b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmur b6
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens b6 Gerald T Keusch b6 Jeff Sturchio <b6
>; Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' b6 'Gerald T Keusch' b6 >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <
b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' <b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010766
MORENS_NIH_021316
REL0000479272

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.

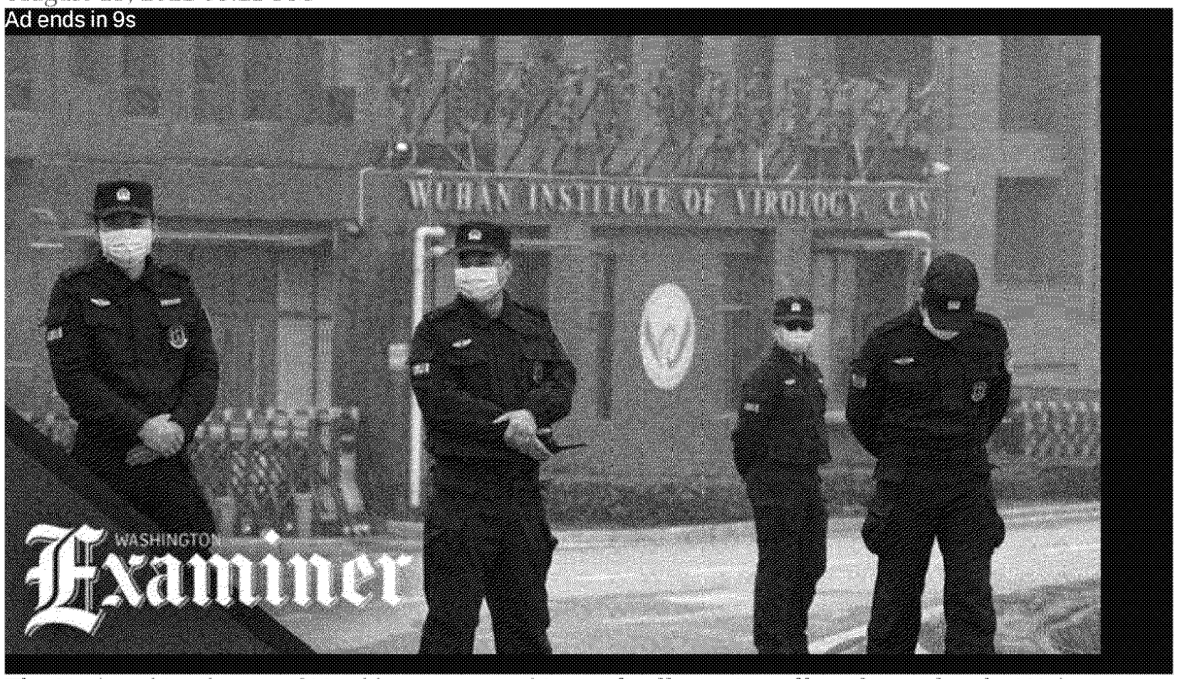
Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010767
MORENS_NIH_021317
REL0000479272

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China .

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <j b6
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 b6 wrote:
>
> Some good news..
>
> Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.
>
> Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.
>
> I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 avid Morens' b6 'Gerald T Keusch' < b6 >; Jeff Sturchio (j_ b6 <j_ b6 >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich < b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010770
MORENS_NIH_021320
REL0000479272

Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <[redacted]>; Peter Daszak <[redacted]>; Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>; David Morens <[redacted]>; David Morens <[redacted]>; Gerald T Keusch <[redacted]>
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: [redacted]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [redacted]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[redacted]>; Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>; David Morens <[redacted]>; David Morens <[redacted]>; Gerald T Keusch <[redacted]>; Roberts, Rich <[redacted]>
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: [redacted]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype [redacted]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6 9
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

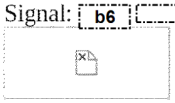
> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010772
MORENS_NIH_021322
REL0000479272

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: b6 b6



Date: Fri, 7 May 2021 11:00:44 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 7 May 2021 11:00:42 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler <kessler@ecohealthalliance.org>;

The letter to Blinken includes the following statement:

"…the release of these documents from the Department could help to refute contradictory statements that have been made regarding the possibility of a laboratory leak from the WIV." This could be taken in a positive sense, that the documents will refute the lab release hypothesis, although I don't think that's how they mean it.

Regarding what Peter previously said about Shi's use of the phrase blah blah, which will surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

"In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use "blah, blah" as equivalent to the Chinese term "deng, deng" which means "and so forth" and has no negative connotation."

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>
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 [b6]g > 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens ([b6])' [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]Roberts, Rich' [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura[b6])' [b6]g>; 'Robert Kessler ([b6]
(b) (6)
Subject: New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
Importance: High

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 14 Feb 2023 10:43:50 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 14 Feb 2023 10:43:11 AM -0500
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic
From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]

By the way Jerry.. Richard Ebright couldn't help himself and followed up with the following comments:

"Remarkable that a putative journalist consulted as non-WHO sources only EcoHealth Alliance NIH grant Co-Inverstigator Keusch and EcoHealth Alliance apologists Worobey and Rasmussen."

And then "Stooges will be stooges." https://twitter.com/R_H_Ebright/status/1625470100865417221

He's remarkably, publicly offensive, for a tenured faculty at a State University (Rutgers). I can't believe his Dean or President hasn't told him to lay off the personal attacks on fellow scientists. He is particularly offensive to Tony Fauci, who he's repeatedly accused of lying in front of Congress and the Senate.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 9:27 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]>; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'David Morens' [b6] 'Aleksei Chmura' <[b6]
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

Good quote in Nature today Jerry: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 023-00283-y

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018903
MORENS_NIH_038387
REL0000479278

Gerald Keusch, associate director of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Institute at Boston University in Massachusetts, says the origins investigation was "poorly handled by the global community. It was poorly handled by China. It was poorly handled by the WHO." The WHO should have been relentless in creating a positive working relationship with the Chinese authorities, says Keusch; if it was being stonewalled, it should have been honest about that.

You've now been elevated in status by the Lab Leak community who are calling you "Dr. Strangelove"
https://twitter.com/harishseshadri2/status/1625488739396096001

..and a 'rabid supporter of virus hunting and GOF who sabotaged the Lancet Commission on behalf of Daszak"

https://twitter.com/harishseshadri2/status/1625467466225946624

Richard Ebright on Twitter says "With the WHO again failing--utterly-- in its responsibility to the global public, it is fortunate that the US Congress is beginning investigation of the origin on the pandemic that killed more than 15 million and cost more than $16 trillion.

Thank Goodness the US Congress will send their crack scientific investigators in to find out the true origins. That includes the subcommittee with Marjorie Taylor Greene that wrote to EHA yesterday!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 11:24 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 David Morens' b6
Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

Great to see your thread (and re-tweet it)!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:38 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 er Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T <b6 ; David Morens b6
Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

Peter: Terrific thread!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:28 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich <b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

My response

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1625303410802040833?s=46 &t=pP2bWfOlKt40fW7D26sGeg

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Feb 13, 2023, at 6:28 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

They've finally re-upped their letters from December, now that they're actually in power.

We've already responded to confirm receipt, tell them we'll comply with information, and explain we need an extension and reduction in scope (their deadline is 1 week!).

Fox News asked for comment 30 mins after we received the letter, so there will be the usual BS in the press.

They've also asked for similar docs and testimony from Francis Collins, Xiaver Beccara, Avril Haines from "Intelligence" (they can't be that intelligent if they're still buying into the lab origin BS) and Tony Fauci (just testimony): https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- comer-launch-first-select-subcommittee-investigation-into-covid-origins-and-u-s-taxpayer-dollars-funneled-to-the-wuhan-lab%EF%BF%BC/

Seems like EcoHealth (and me specifically) will be the unfortunate scapegoat in their political theater!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 > Peter Daszak < [redacted] b6 >; David Morens b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

Peter:

Nancy would be a good source. I am a member too and can discuss with David Oxtoby.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Roberts, Rich < b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 David More b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes I'm a member, and they do have some science and public engagement outreach. Probably the best person to discuss this with is Nancy Andrews MD PhD who is on their board as exec VP and also CSO at

Boston Children's Hospital. We were undergrads at Yale together 100 years ago, https://www.amacad.org/person/nancy- c-andrews

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Feb 10, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Roberts, Rich <b6 wrote:

One organization that might be very helpful would be the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They have many members who are not scientists including some quite well known people like Yo Yo Ma and John Lithgow. They might be able to help.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 David Morens < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

So far Ann Moscona from ASV seems on board we can start with her? And the two names she suggested?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6
iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 4:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

I have not been at all successful in my outreach. I sent notes to Stef Bertuzzi at ASM, Mary Woolley at Research!America, and Carlos del Rio who is the foreign secretary for NAM (and the interim Dean at Emory Medical School) last Thursday

after our call and I have not heard from any of them. I can get back to this middle of next week and if I haven't heard back by email I will call them directly. I can understand why Carlos might be suddenly overwhelmed with new responsibilities, which was one reason I thought about getting in touch first by email. But I don't think that applies to Stef or Mary.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6; Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6; Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Would engaging with the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility be useful? Here's some information on the CSFR from the AAAS website:

Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) was established in 1976 by AAAS. The Committee Charter is as follows:

The Council recognizes that the CSFR, as a standing committee of the AAAS, plays a significant as well as potentially controversial role for the Association. The increasing complexity of the interactions among science, technology, and the public interest raise new issues and problems concerning the human rights, freedom of scientific inquiry, and professional responsibilities of scientists and engineers. The Association affirms at the outset that scientific freedom is grounded in basic human rights and implies special responsibilities to extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity. With these perspectives in mind, and within the resources allocated by the Board of Directors, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is charged with the following duties on behalf of the Association:

To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of both scientists and others.

To monitor whether the actions and policies of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and of private organizations circumscribe or restrict the freedom of scientists or their ability to carry out their responsibilities.

To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.

To encourage and assist the AAAS, its affiliates, and other scientific groups to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to establish policies, procedures, and educational activities designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the application of science in the promotion of human rights and general welfare.

To encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop policies and procedures to protect scientists against

infringements of scientific freedom; to collect information about the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of such infringements; to facilitate communication among the societies with a view to strengthening of these procedures; and, in exceptional circumstances and within the criteria developed by the Committee, to conduct an analytic review of cases where the ramifications are deemed to be especially significant for the scientific community at large.

To report annually to the Association, through the Council–and, as appropriate, to other scientific and technological communities and to the general public–the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.

As part of the attempt to fulfill its mandate, the CSFR in 1977 established a Science and Human Rights Subcommittee, specifically to address issues of human rights as they occur in relation to all these duties.

Adopted by the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility February 9, 1996.

Adopted by the AAAS Council on February 16, 1997.

MEMBERS

Ronald Arkin
Georgia Institute of Technology

Angela Bielefeldt
University of Colorado, Boulder

Matthew Brown
University of Texas, Dallas

Deborah Johnson
University of Virginia

Kelly Joyce
Drexel University

Bartha Maria Knoppers

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018912
MORENS_NIH_038396
REL0000479278

McGill University

Alexa Koenig
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Livingston
George Washington University

Camille Nebeker
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)
Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <[redacted] b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <[redacted] b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] b6 Peter Daszak [redacted] b6 g >; David Morens [redacted] b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio <[redacted] b6 Aleksei Chmura <[redacted] b6
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018913
MORENS_NIH_038397
REL0000479278

National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018914
MORENS_NIH_038398
REL0000479278

to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6
Executive Assistan b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Dasza b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Ric b6 eusch, Gerald b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018915
MORENS_NIH_038399
REL0000479278

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018916
MORENS_NIH_038400
REL0000479278

Goraleski, Kent Kester)

- Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
- Georgia Global Health Alliance
- Bay Area Global Health Alliance
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018917
MORENS_NIH_038401
REL0000479278

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 g >
Cc: David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich <b6 eusch, Gerald T <b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura <
b6 >
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay; [b6]
Cc: David Morens <[b6]>; Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
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

b6

Meeting ID: [b6]
Passcode: [b6]
One tap mobile
[b6] US (New York)
[b6] US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] eusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio < [b6] Aleksei Chmura < [b6]
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] Phone: [b6] Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

b6

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018921
MORENS_NIH_038405
REL0000479278

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018923
MORENS_NIH_038407
REL0000479278

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018925
MORENS_NIH_038409
REL0000479278

propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018926
MORENS_NIH_038410
REL0000479278

they hiding?"
And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.
Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.
Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.
Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?
Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.
Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?
Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.
Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?
Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.
Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social

media that we should consider moving forward?
Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.
For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018928
MORENS_NIH_038412
REL0000479278

To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]> Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

[b6]

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens b6 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 b6 wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <b6 wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018932
MORENS_NIH_038416
REL0000479278

b6

Cc: David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Roberts, Rich b6

Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack. They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sponsor Message

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018935
MORENS_NIH_038419
REL0000479278

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent

pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <J b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts < b6
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <J b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T < b6 }rote:

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 b6

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6

b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak < b6 > 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 b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Gerald Keusch < b6 >; Rich Roberts < b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack 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 [b6] [b6] from [b6] - 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 < [b6] wrote:

> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018942
MORENS_NIH_038426
REL0000479278

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <
b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
>; David Moren b6
Gerald Keusch b6 ; Rich Roberts
b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <b6 wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Peter Daszak <
b6
g >; Aleksei Chmura b6
>; David Morens < b6
>; Gerald Keusch b6
Rich Roberts b6
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 b6
>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < b6
>; David Morens
>; Gerald Keusch b6
Jeffrey Sturchio < b6
Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0I

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 |
Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018947
MORENS_NIH_038431
REL0000479278

Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2021 11:46:05 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Sep 2021 11:45:55 PM -0400
Subject: RE: [EXT]US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Worobey, Michael - (worobey) b6 Garry, Robert F b6
CC: Edward Holmes b6 >; Rasmussen, Angie b6 Jason Gale b6 David Morens b6 Stephen Goldstein b6

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the "debate" pretty clearly and cites a couple of you:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021- 09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST
SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to CNN, the investigative news site the Intercept, and the Atlantic.

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.
CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the

viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely," Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego's medical school, told me. "To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely."

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim's co-authors, told Nature, the finding is "a dagger into the heart" of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a "critical review" of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, "There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010964
MORENS_NIH_021529
REL0000479287

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010965
MORENS_NIH_021530
REL0000479287

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 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010966
MORENS_NIH_021531
REL0000479287

book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Worobey, Michael - (worobey b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Garry, Robert F b6
Cc: Edward Holmes b6 >; Rasmussen, Angie <ang b6 >; Jason Gale < b6 Stephen Goldstein < b6
Subject: Re: [EXT]US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng

Good point — though I think that she likely was talking about the idea that there were multiple cross-species origins of SARS-CoV-2 at different markets, rather than just the undeniable fact that early cases were linked epidemiologically to multiple markets. At any rate, multiple cross-species origins is a hypothesis not a myth. She definitely is off to a bad, unscientific start with such pejorative bluster. Geez.

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010967
MORENS_NIH_021532
REL0000479287

On Sep 28, 2021, at 5:56 PM, Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) wrote:

External Email

<image.png>
Chan is actually off to a really bad start "debunking" the multi-market "myth."

Trhe WHO team did a great job showing that most early cases were linked to multiple markets (that we now know sold SC2 susceptible animals).

Multi-market is not a myth or a hypothesis. It's a fact that any theory on SARS-CoV-2 origins MUST account for.

From: Worobey, Michael - (worobey) <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 12:26 AM
To: Edward Holmes b6
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie <b6>; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; b6 <b6>; b6 <b6>; Garry, Robert F b6; Stephen Goldstein b6
Subject: Re: [EXT]US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

And one very useful tidbit from The Who report was that none of >7000 samples from ILI cases from the fall of 2019 had SARS-CoV-2.

Damn autocorrect always changes is the the band when I write “the WHO”.

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

On Sep 14, 2021, at 5:23 PM, Edward Holmes <b6 wrote:

External Email

Plus WHO talked to the medical staff at the military games and checked hospital admission data.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 15 Sep 2021, at 10:06 am, Rasmussen, Angie <b6 wrote:

Agreed. Quite honestly this story doesn’t even make any sense. If the CCP was really so good at keeping crucial information away from Westerners, then why are all these people suddenly revealing that it was old news by late December to known dissidents and an ever-growing consortium of well-connected US scientists, politicians, and intelligence officials? If David Asher, for example, was really privy to all this conclusive proof in late 2019, then why in spring 2021 was he still sitting on panels describing the zoonotic origin hypothesis as a pangolin mating with a bat? None of this makes any sense except in the context that people are trying to inflate their own importance and/or sell their ridiculous, defamatory, agenda-driven works of fiction.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010968
MORENS_NIH_021533
REL0000479287

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: b6 b6
She/her
www.vido.org

<1f173b8a-2d0d-442c-8c8b-7b6e151a325a.png>

On Sep 14, 2021, at 6:00 PM, Worobey, Michael - (worobey) < b6 rote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Yes, total BS.

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

On Sep 14, 2021, at 4:56 PM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

External Email

JFYI

Revealed: US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng
EXCLUSIVE
SHARRI MARKSON
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR
2 MINUTES AGO SEPTEMBER 15, 2021188 COMMENTS

China's most famous defector to America warned US intelligence agencies a coronavirus was spreading in Wuhan in November 2019 – six weeks before China admitted there was an outbreak.

Wei Jingsheng, the father of China's democracy movement, reveals in the new book What Really Happened in Wuhan that he first heard of a new, mysterious virus at the time of the World Military Games in Wuhan in October 2019.

Highly alarmed, the former Chinese Communist Party insider, whose defection in 1997 made global news, alerted intelligence agencies, a US politician with

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010969
MORENS_NIH_021534
REL0000479287

links to the President and Chinese human rights activist Dimon Liu.

Asked if he had any sense the intelligence agencies were taking seriously his intelligence about a new virus in Wuhan, Mr Wei, 70, said: “I felt they were not as heavily concerned as I was so I tried my best to provide more detailed information,” he said. “They may not believe there is (a) government of a country that would do something like that (cover up a virus). So I kept repeating myself in an effort to try to persuade them.”

Mr Wei said he was “very worried because ... whichever way the Communist regime released this virus, I felt that the West is not prepared”.

It was not until December 31 that China involuntarily alerted the World Health Organisation there was an outbreak in Wuhan. Beijing denied Covid-19 was contagious until January 20, 2020, when it admitted there was evidence of human-to-human transmission.

Mr Wei, who spent 18 years in Chinese prisons for objecting to the Communist regime, is highly respected on both sides of politics and has forged relationships with former secretary of state Mike Pompeo and Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

In a Sky News documentary, based on the book, to air on Monday night, Mr Wei said he found out about the virus from high-level contacts in Beijing.

“I talked to Dimon and some other American politicians in the House of the danger of this situation,” he said. “There were officials from the White House at that time as well. In November 2019.”

Mr Wei would not reveal which politician he told. “I’m not sure if this politician wants me to talk about him right here,” he said. “But I want to say he is a high enough politician, high enough to be able to reach to the President of the United States.”

David Asher, the State Department official who spearheaded a taskforce into the origins of Covid-19, said the opportunity presented by Mr Wei’s warning was like “stopping 9/11 before it happened”.

Mr Asher said the US government had other crucial pieces of early-warning evidence in late 2019 but it failed to connect the dots. He said the US government first had intelligence about Wuhan Institute of

Virology workers falling sick with Covid-like symptoms in late 2019 – a year before he discovered it during his investigation into the origins of the virus for the State Department. By then, 1.7 million people worldwide had died from Covid-19.

In the Sky News documentary, Mr Asher said he was shocked when he found out "we actually could have had foreknowledge" of the coronavirus. "We could have known in November of 2019, that there was a disaster occurring inside Wuhan – inside their most important biological facilities related to coronavirus research," he said.

"It was something absolutely tragic, traumatic and dramatic that was occurring and we could have reacted to it. The whole world could have been different. It would have been like stopping 9/11 before it happened."
Chinese authorities were acting to suppress news of the Wuhan outbreak, purging the internet of social media posts and news stories and "disappearing" dissidents and whistleblowers who attempted to sound a warning. Social media reports about a new coronavirus did not emerge until late December 2019 and it was not until the end of January 2020 that the US, Australia and New Zealand closed borders to travellers from China.

Ms Liu reveals in What Really Happened in Wuhan that Mr Wei told her about the virus on November 22, 2019 at a dinner where her husband, former CIA agent Robert Suettinger was also present. "I couldn't quite believe what he was saying," Ms Liu said. "At that time, I had thought that the coronavirus could not be worse than SARS. And SARS, as we knew from experience, was not that contagious and it could be contained. I thought at the time that was the case. Okay, there was an outbreak, but the authorities and the advance of medical sciences would be able to contain the spread of it."

In the book, Ms Liu details the race to get information about the new virus to the White House and her uncertainty about it. After Mr Wei's visit, she wrote a memo of what he had divulged to her and Mr Suettinger. She intended to pass it on to Donald Trump's deputy national security adviser, Matt Pottinger.

"But I didn't send it to him because so many things were so incredulous," she said. "I wrote it, but I didn't send it because I decided it was better that

Wei talks directly to Matt Pottinger."

Mr Wei says in the book: "In the past several decades, the CCP's capacity to seal information is hard to be understood by you Westerners."

Order your copy of What Really Happened in Wuhan by Sharri Markson here

<1f173b8a-2d0d-442c-8c8b-7b6e151a325a.png>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 15 May 2024 11:15:08 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 15 May 2024 11:11:38 PM -0400
Subject:	NY Times article on EcoHealth's proposed debarment
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC:	David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png

Benjamin Muellller makes an interesting point at the end – why is this action suddenly being proposed 3 years after all of these allegations were first raised?

Can't have anything to do with a certain November event can it?

U.S. Suspends Funding for Group at Center of Covid Origins Fight

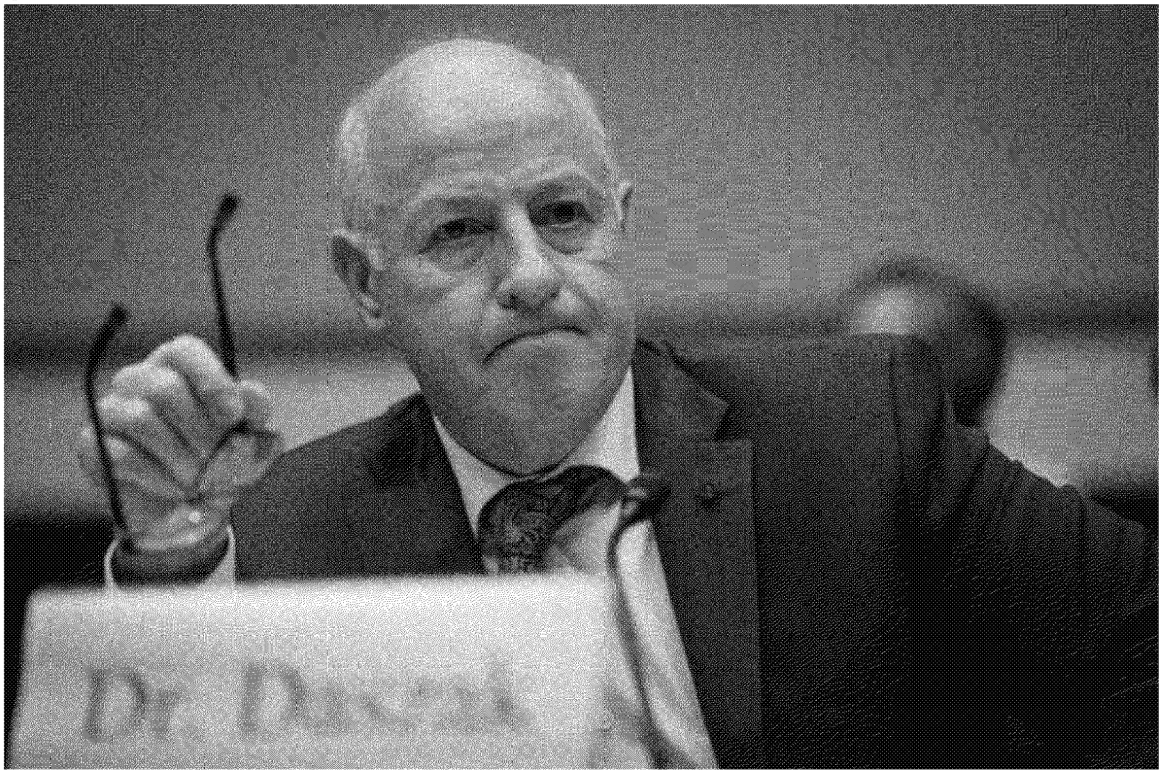
The decision came after a scorching hearing in which lawmakers barraged EcoHealth Alliance's president with claims of misrepresenting work with Chinese virologists.

Listen to articles

Tap the Play button at the top of any article to hear it read aloud.

Listen to this article · 5:14 min Learn more

- Share full article
-
-



Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, faced a barrage of questions during a congressional hearing this b6 Shen for The New York Times

MORENS_NIH_049971
REL0000479289



By Benjamin Mueller
May 15, 2024, 4:03 p.m. ET

The Biden administration, under acute pressure from House lawmakers, moved on Wednesday to ban funding for a prominent virus-hunting nonprofit group whose work with Chinese scientists had put it at the heart of theories that Covid leaked from a lab.

The decision, announced in a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services, came on the heels of a scorching congressional hearing this month at which lawmakers barraged the group's president with suggestions that he had misrepresented work with virologists in Wuhan, China, where the pandemic began. Republicans went further, demanding that Peter Daszak, the president of the nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, be criminally investigated.

For EcoHealth, which relied on federal funding to study the threat of wild animal viruses, the loss of funding is another twist in a saga that has long dominated discussions of how the pandemic began.

In April 2020, under orders from the Trump administration, the National Institutes of Health terminated a grant to EcoHealth amid President Donald J. Trump's feud with China over the origin of the coronavirus. Three years later, an internal federal watchdog agency determined that the N.I.H. had failed to give a proper cause for ending the grant, which supplied an average of roughly $625,000 per year. The N.I.H. restarted a pared-back version of the award.

Now, with Republicans stepping up their campaign against EcoHealth, and Democrats joining in the anger, the Biden administration has cut off funding for EcoHealth again.

Health officials said they were suspending three active N.I.H. grants to EcoHealth that totaled $2.6 million for last year. And they proposed barring the group from receiving future federal research funding. Such bans, they said, usually last no more than three years, but could be longer or shorter.

In explaining the decision, health officials cited a series of lapses that the N.I.H. had first reported nearly three years ago. Chief among them was EcoHealth's failure to promptly report findings from studies on how well bat coronaviruses grow in mice, health officials said.

"I have determined that the immediate suspension of EHA is necessary to protect the public interest," wrote Henrietta K. Brisbon, a health department official, referring to EcoHealth Alliance.

She cited problems in EcoHealth's monitoring of work done at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where some of EcoHealth's grant money was apportioned; the late submission of a progress report; and the possibility that a risky experiment had violated the terms of a grant.

EcoHealth said that it would contest the proposal to bar it from federal funding.

"We disagree strongly with the decision and will present evidence to refute each of these allegations and to show that N.I.H.'s continued support of EcoHealth Alliance is in the public interest," the nonprofit said in a statement.

EcoHealth has also faced suspicion over a federal grant proposal that it made in 2018 to team up with the same Wuhan virology lab on coronavirus experiments that Republicans believe could have led to the pandemic, despite that project's never receiving funding.

But for all the scrutiny of EcoHealth, there remains no evidence linking it directly with the beginning of the pandemic.

Federal health officials have said repeatedly that the viruses being studied with taxpayer funding at the Wuhan lab bore no resemblance to the one that set off the coronavirus outbreak, making it impossible that they had been responsible for the public health crisis.

Many scientists, including some whose criticisms of EcoHealth have been cited by House lawmakers in recent weeks, say that early cases and viral genomes point to a different origin for the pandemic: an illegal wild-

animal market in Wuhan. Samples collected from the market were revealed last year to contain genetic material from the coronavirus and from animals like raccoon dogs, a scenario that scientists have said is consistent with a market origin.

Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, a Republican who serves as the chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, which held the hearing this month, celebrated the suspension of EcoHealth's funding. He called it "not only a victory for the U.S. taxpayer, but also for American national security and the safety of citizens worldwide."

Representative Raul Ruiz of California, the subcommittee's top Democrat, also welcomed the decision, describing EcoHealth's conduct as "a departure from the longstanding legacy of good faith partnerships between the N.I.H. and federal grantees."

Last year, the Biden administration barred the Wuhan Institute of Virology from receiving federal funding for a period of 10 years.

The health department said in a statement that EcoHealth had not complied with federal regulations, necessitating that it, too, now be barred. But the health department did not respond to questions about the timing of that decision, nearly three years after most of the facts cited in its assessment were released by health officials.

Benjamin Mueller reports on health and medicine. He was previously a U.K. correspondent in London and a police reporter in New York. More about Benjamin Mueller

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Ja[b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 8:15 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Roberts, Ric [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Science article on HHS action to suspend EcoHealth Alliance

[b6]

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Doug b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On May 15, 2024, at 7:06 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

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 b6
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 peter hotez b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: Fwd: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** < b6
Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 17:30
Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
To:

MORENS_NIH_049976
REL0000479289

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Subject

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Date

May 16, 2024

Time

9:00 am

Place

2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Witnesses and testimonies: Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Principal Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health

Document

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_NIH_049977
REL0000479289

Date: Mon, 17 May 2021 4:20:53 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 17 May 2021 4:20:18 PM -0400
Subject: Details of BSL-2/3/4 levels for viral cultures
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; Lab BSLs for pathogenic viruses.docx

Please have a look at the attached, ready for people asking you about comments from Ian Lipkin, Ralph Baric and others re China using BSL-2 level to culture bat-CoVs. This is now being used to suggest a lab-origin for SARS-CoV-2 is more valid. I list 7 reasons why this argument is flawed, and we cite a bunch of examples of viruses known to be lethal to people that are cultured at BSL-2 in the USA.

Hope all this helps, and thank you for your support and advice.

Each of these new conspiracy angles takes us multiple phone calls, a few hours of digging, and a not insignificant amount of emotional angst before we realize (as usual) that these are little more than hype, rhetoric and misinformation.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:27 PM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' [b6]; 'Keusch, Jerry [b6]; 'Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]
Subject: RE: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

Didn't see that one. Vincent's right that EcoHealth was not part of any gain-of-function work. He's wrong that the work between Ralph and Zhengli was actually 'gain of function'. The chimeric virus (bat spike, SARS-CoV backbone) actually lost some replication capacity – more like 'loss of function'.

The interview video clip is one I recorded in Singapore in December 2019 at a Nipah meeting. I didn't use the phrase gain of function, and wasn't referring to work we did, as Vincent says. Quite ridiculous, but easy to fool the public with this…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

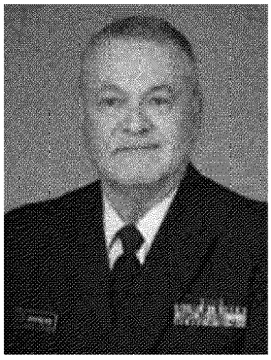
---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6
b6 ich Roberts b6
Subject: FW: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research
https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:11 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research
https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research

In a tense exchange Tuesday with Sen. Rand Paul, longtime NIAID Director Anthony Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied his institute has funded gain-of-function research.
By Daniel Payne

Updated: May 15, 2021 - 11:44am
A prominent Columbia University virologist claims that in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic a U.S. nonprofit funded coronavirus experiments in Wuhan, China the results of which were used in "gain-of-function" virology research at the University of North Carolina.
Dr. Vincent Racaniello made the claim amid ongoing controversy over a recently resurfaced interview between himself and Peter Daszak, the president of the U.S. infectious disease nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.
Both EcoHealth Alliance and the scientist leading the research at UNC have been heavily funded over the years by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been directed since 1984 by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the public face of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic under Presidents Trump and Biden.
Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied that NIAID has funded gain-of-function research in a tense exchange Tuesday with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) at a Senate hearing.
Racianello's half-hour interview with Daszak took place in early December 2019 at the Nipah Virus International Conference in Singapore. Significant attention has been given to a segment in which Daszak appears to allude to having participated in "gain-of-function" experiments, a type of procedure in which scientists increase a virus's pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in order to study its potential for human infection.
"You can manipulate [coronaviruses] in the lab pretty easily," Daszak says in the interview. "Spike protein drives a lot of what happens with the coronavirus, zoonotic risk. So you can get the sequence, you can build the protein — and we work with Ralph Baric at UNC to do this — insert into the backbone of another virus, and do, do some work in the lab."
Those remarks, when they resurfaced this week, caused considerable controversy due to Daszak's role in funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars through his EcoHealth Alliance to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to bankroll coronavirus experiments there. The Wuhan lab sits just a few miles from where the first detected outbreak of COVID-19 occurred.
Speculation has swirled over the last year as to what role, if any, the Wuhan lab may have played in the origin of the pandemic, including whether it was engaging in any gain-of-function experiments that may have posed a pandemic risk.
Experiments 'confer a new property to the original virus'
Racaniello said that Daszak in the December 2019 interview was indeed describing gain-of-function experiments.
"Here is the idea," he said in an email exchange this week. "You go into caves in China and sample bats for CoVs. You collect bat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014910
MORENS_NIH_030563
REL0000479293

guano and sequence it to find the viruses. You don't actually have the viruses, just their genome sequences. You want to know if these viruses have the ability to infect human cells."
"Since you don't have the viruses," he continued, "you just take the spike sequence from all these viruses and put it into a coronavirus that you work with in the lab. Then you see if that recombinant coronavirus can infect human cells. It's all done under containment to prevent any release. If the spikes of the bat CoV can allow the CoV to infect human cells, then they have the potential to infect humans and we should be making antivirals against them to prevent a pandemic."
Those kinds of experiments, Racaniello said, "are considered 'gain of function' because they would confer a new property to the original virus."
That research, Racaniello said, "was done in the laboratory of Dr. Ralph Baric in [the University of] North Carolina and was not funded by EcoHealth Alliance." When pressed, Racaniello revealed that EcoHealth did have an indirect role in the funding of Baric's work.
"EcoHealth Alliance provided funds to Zengli Shi at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to conduct bat surveillance for SARS-like CoVs," he said. "Baric then received the spike sequences from Wuhan to do his experiments independently."
"Daszak and Baric did not work together on this project," he added.
Anna Marie Skalka, a professor emerita at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and one of the authors of the bestselling textbook "Principles of Virology," did not expressly deny that Baric's research constituted gain-of-function, though she claimed that the overall issue was more complex than that.
"I prefer to describe the research in broader terms, as gain-of-function seems too narrow and has acquired negative connotations," she said. "The aim of such research is to learn as much as possible about the gene/protein in question so that one can begin to develop possible therapeutic or vaccine-related approaches."
Queries to Daszak and Baric on Racaniello's claims went unanswered.
The assertions from Racaniello — a four-decade veteran of academic virology who along with Skalka is also an author of "Principles of Virology" — constitute the sharpest allegations yet that both EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology were involved, even if adjacently, with gain-of-function research prior to the pandemic.
Baric's research, meanwhile, has been the recipient of millions of dollars in funding from the NIAID over the years, much of it focused on coronaviruses, including experiments in the "replication and pathogenesis" of those viruses.
Racaniello himself forcefully defended such research. "There is a very clear reason to do these experiments and if we had done them even more we could have prevented the current pandemic," he said.
EcoHealth, meanwhile, has been the focus of controversy for the past year due not merely to its alleged association with coronavirus experiments but also to the fact that its work was for years heavily funded by the federal government, specifically the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
EcoHealth routed hundreds of thousands of NIAID dollars to the Wuhan lab in the years leading up to the pandemic to conduct coronavirus research there. Experts and commentators alike have called for a major investigation into the lab to determine if SARS-Cov-2 may have accidentally leaked from the facility and launched the pandemic.
The federal funding for the Wuhan project was pulled last year near the outset of the pandemic. Daszak himself told NPR last year that the Wuhan experiments were "funded entirely through the NIH grant," as the news service put it.
The lab was the subject of part of the World Health Organization's investigation into the origins of COVID-19. That probe concluded earlier this year and determined that a lab-leak theory was unlikely, though world officials have called for additional investigations into the facility.
The international team of investigators reportedly only spent a single day at the Wuhan lab. Among the team's members — and the only U.S. representative on it — was Peter Daszak.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Tue, 31 May 2022 10:51:51 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 31 May 2022 10:51:46 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio b6
Attachments:	image002.png; image003.jpg

He's quite hopeless. I just don't know who he might listen to at this point.

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:48 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks to me that Jeff has Joe Rogan syndrome, and is deep in the rabbit hole, it's awful. If there more things I can do on social media or a note let me know

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phon b6

Fax: 713-798-2299







From: Peter Daszak [b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 9:34 AM
To: David Morens[b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6
Subject: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

As predicted, Jeffrey Sachs has now re-hashed his PNAS op ed into a Boston Globe op ed, replete with a picture of a CoV and some human stitching on the Spike protein (I kid you not – see below)…

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/05/31/opinion/questions-surrounding-origins-covid-19-remain-unanswered/?event=event12

It's behind a paywall, so I've inserted the full text below.

It's still full of errors. His goal is to push the Democrats to call for a bipartisan 'investigation' into EHA, UNC and other US orgs.

Reads like a call for the 'Witchfinder General' to get their pliers and racks together – farcical really, and all based on a tissue of misinformed BS.

By the way Jerry, this is the same Boston Globe that wouldn't consider your Op Ed!

Cheers,

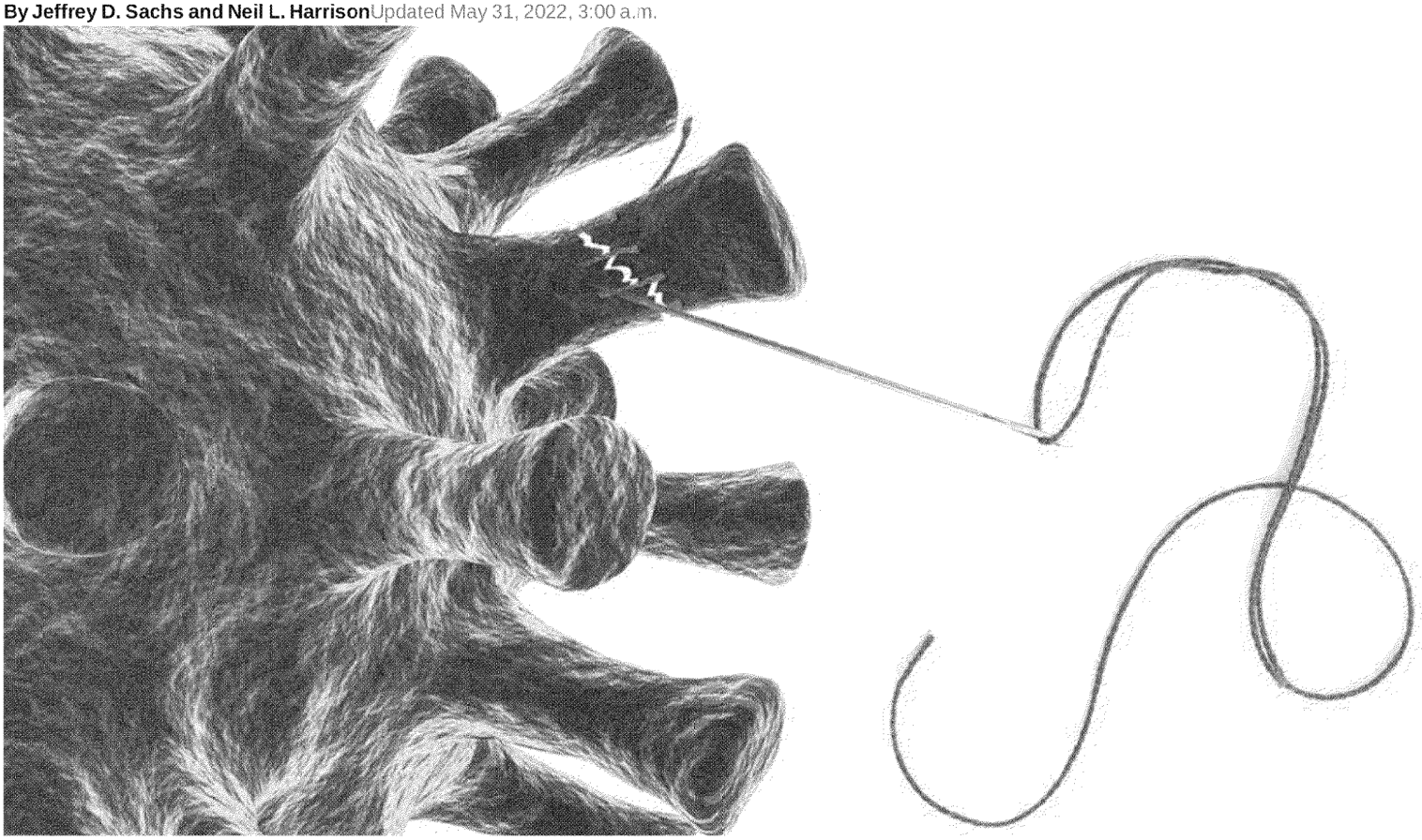
Peter

OPINION

Questions surrounding the origins of COVID-19 remain unanswered

Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

By Jeffrey D. Sachs and Neil L. Harrison Updated May 31, 2022, 3:00 a.m.



GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION; JEROME CRONENBERGER/AFRICA STUDIO/ADOBE

It's not yet clear whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 was created in a laboratory or emerged from nature; there is still no decisive evidence for either alternative. To find out, we have recently called for an independent and transparent investigation into the possible role that US biotechnology played in the emergence of the virus.

Americans have heard a lot about the possibility that Chinese laboratories played a role in the emergence of the pandemic, but very little about the role US organizations might have played. When President Biden tasked the US Intelligence Community with determining the origin of SARS-CoV-2, it found that either "a laboratory-associated incident" or a "natural origin" was possible. The IC said that China should cooperate more to find the truth, but did not make clear, or perhaps did not fully realize, the role that US science might have played in the origin of the virus. More important, the IC didn't present the details of its inquiry for independent scientific scrutiny. We don't know whether the IC's analysis was comprehensive or superficial.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005895
MORENS_NIH_014499
REL000479297

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005896
MORENS_NIH_014500
REL0000479297

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6 b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Ja b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Peter Daszak b6 g>
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 b6 wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
> That is good.
>
> I will reply to Jeff in a day or so and point out some of his specific errors (as documented in Peter's email). I was especially offended by his remarks about Peter D., which not only were unnecessarily disparaging but totally at odds with my experience.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel b6
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email: b6
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Keusch, Gerald T <b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005897
MORENS_NIH_014501
REL000479297

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Roberts, Ric[b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay[b6]; David Morens [b6]
Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Peter Dasza[b6]
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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay[b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T[b6]
>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Ric[b6]
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

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +[b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sachs [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Sonia E Sachs
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005899
MORENS_NIH_014503
REL000479297

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

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly

prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005901
MORENS_NIH_014505
REL0000479297

Date: Sat, 27 Apr 2024 5:46:07 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 27 Apr 2024 5:45:06 PM -0400
Subject: Latest Tweet from the SSCP Covid Select committee
From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] (b) (6) [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; John Feigelson [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg; image003.png; image004.png

Here's today's harassment from the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. The good thing is, every time they publicly accuse me of something, I can make sure my answer is word perfect for my hearing…

We heard that they will be releasing a 'report' on EcoHealth Alliance on Monday, as well as the transcript of my interview.

They've also told us to expect a subpoena after the hearing. Pretty obvious way to squeeze another media story out of their 'investigation'…

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
@COVIDSelect

Was @EcoHealthNYC President Dr. Peter Daszak HONEST WITH CONGRESS about his relationship with the Wuhan Institute of Virology & his oversight of gain-of-function research? It appears not. May 1 | 10:00am — Dr. Daszak will be held publicly accountable



MORENS_NIH_047627
REL0000479302

A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak - United States House Commit...

From oversight.house.gov

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald b6; Roberts, Rich b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; John Feigelson <
Subject: Re: More harrassment from Michael Lauer Today!!

How awful. As Churchill once said about civil servants, “neither civil, neither servants”
Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children’s Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 2:42 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Speaking of Michael Lauer – interesting and telling side bar with him re. the WIV lab notebooks. Remember, NIH terminated our grant, then reinitiated it with an instant suspension, pending a series of conditions be met – including getting a vial of virus from China etc.

In Jan 2022, while the grant was still suspended, they wrote to us and asked us to supply the lab notebooks and raw data from WIV, and if we didn't have them, to request them from WIV we explained we didn't have them, and passed on their letter to WIV, who never responded (of course!). WIV was then debarred by HHS, in part because when NIH directly asked for the lab notebooks via a UPS letter, the letter didn't even make it past the gate and was marked 'return to sender'!

Now the SSCP has demanded all correspondence from EHA with WIV whereby we tried to get their lab notebooks. There is only one email where we forward the demand from NIH. Cue Michael Lauer, who has seen the SSCP letter to EHA and now demands we share everything with NIH also, given "ongoing concerns over EcoHealth Alliance's compliance". Truly outrageous, however we took the high road and shared the email.

Of course Michael Lauer hasn't stopped at that, he now wants to provide (I believe) a foiable trail of emails that show how dogged he is in pursuit of the nefarious EcoHealth Alliance, and how negligent we are. Today, we got the following email from him, demanding all sorts of answers to questions about a grant that was terminated, and about an organization that is debarred. If this isn't overreach, I don't know what is. I believe he realizes that the Intel agencies can't even get this information, but wants to show that EcoHealth has likely continued to work with WIV, but hasn't done its patriotic duty in demanding their lab notebooks.. Of course, at the same time, NIH is fully aware that we're aiming to publish work from our prior award in China, and get hold of critical genomic information that WIV has generated from 15,000 NIH samples in their freezers. Talk about being stuck between a rock and a hard place…

Here's the brunt of Lauer's email:

By the way – we just received a response from Michael Lauer re. the lab notebooks. We voluntarily shared the email from us to WIV that the SSCP has asked for, that shows we forwarded NIH's demand for us to get WIV's notebooks. As is typical for Lauer, rather than say 'thanks' and move on, he's come back with further questions and demands, written in the style of a suspicious NKVD operative under Stalin. He knows these will be foiad at some point, and has written them in a way that once again implies we're either hiding information or didn't' fully comply with their request 2 yrs ago. They're also designed to make a point – if we are still communicating with WIV (which we have to if we're going to publish papers from our prior work), why aren't we demanding the notebooks? This, even though NIH has specifically told us no work in China, and HHS has debarred them from federal funding. It's a massive overreach from NIH and more like the sort of work a CIA operative would do…

MORENS_NIH_047629
REL0000479302

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Thank you for your response. We have some follow-up questions:

- When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?
- Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3rd attachment)?
- Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've forwarded it to WIV, because I don't have that information."
- Were there any other EHA communications with WIV during the period of November 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022?

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: b6g
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald b6
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <j b6 b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; John Feigelson b6 >

MORENS_NIH_047630
REL0000479302

Subject: Re: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

I did put him on to Lauer and the Thousand Talents purge, including Lauers glee over the number of US and Chinese scientists caught in the web. I also notedand the shock Collins and Tabak exhibited when the ACD members read their statement and how quickly they ended the day one meeting after that. He has now seen the transcript and asked Lauer and Tabak to comment on it but of course no real response on that either.

I met my former fellow Claire Panosian Donavan for breakfast this morning. She just interviewed Peter Hotez for ASTMH which will be published soon in the journal. She said Phil Rosenthal would be very positive if some of us wrote an updated perspectives piece although I know that takes to time to write well and credibly. Claire suggested we be in touch with Don McNeil who recently left The NY Times due to rather flimsy racist allegations to talk about the current situation as he might have some ideas about how to get attention to our perspective. She offered to introduce me if that would be helpful. We should consider it as a group or I could just do it myself.

I must say I am looking forward to what Michael Hiltzik puts out after the hearing because there may some really wacky stuff coming out of some of the committee members.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Really appreciate your email Rich – it's pretty ugly right now, but I'm so busy dealing with this garbage that in a weird way you don't have time to get upset about it.

I'll probably be crying into my cornflakes on the morning of May 2nd after my Salem Witch Trial.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_NIH_047631
REL0000479302

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 2:14 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald <[b6]> Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>
Cc [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; John Feigelson [b6]
Subject: RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

Peter:

I'm glad he is doing this. I feel very upset about what is happening to you and your family. The sooner these Republicans are voted out of office the better. It is quite unconscionable what they are doing.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]g >
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: [b6]; Jeff Sturchio <[b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>;
[b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; John Feigelson <
[b6]
Subject: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FoIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes

MORENS_NIH_047632
REL0000479302

are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines “because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment” or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald b6 '; 'Hotez, Peter Jay b6 u>
Cc: b6 ; 'Jeff Sturchio' b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' b6 >b6 >; Aleksei Chmura <b6 >; John Feigelson b6
Subject: RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.

MORENS_NIH_047633
REL0000479302

Talking with Michael Hiltzik at 1pm and will be ready to fill him in on some of this, and point him to the Troika at the top of NIH (Collins, Tabak, Lauer) who's weak-willed kow-towing to the former president began all this with the termination of my grant 4 years and 2 days ago (not that I'm counting!!)…

I'll avoid the phrase "four more years" at this point, because I really think we do have another 4 years of crap to wade through…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald b6
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Jeff Sturchio < b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; John Feigelson b6
Subject: Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It is absolutely awful Peter. But I expect your bravery in the face of adversity, and your insistence on clarity and truth, as David and Tony will echo it as well, will remain strong and in the end be the authentic and true of the fictional story they are trying to manufacture.

Jerry
Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2024, at 8:04 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 > wrote:
>
> As they indicated on official twitter they want to "sell popcorn"
>
> **Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_NIH_047634
REL0000479302

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak **b6** wrote:

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we're now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We've spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their 'angry letter/subpoena' story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_NIH_047635
REL0000479302

USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; John Feigelson b6
Subject: Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It's just awful Peter, I'm so sorry, but if it's any consolation the press is busy with Trump hearings and the culture wars playing out on college campuses so there's a good chance that it won't be highlighted much in the mainstream media

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:

MORENS_NIH_047636
REL0000479302

*****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

MORENS_NIH_047637
REL0000479302

✔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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM
To: b6 e >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' < b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < b6 <k
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; John Feigelson < b6
Subject: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
Importance: High

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day: https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_NIH_047638
REL0000479302

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

MORENS_NIH_047639
REL0000479302

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay
b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>; b6 g
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_NIH_047640
REL0000479302

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: b6 >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6 ; 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6 >; 'John Feigelson' < b6 >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] Jeff Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson [b6]
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and

promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>; b6
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

MORENS_NIH_047643
REL0000479302

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: b6 >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6
'Jeff Sturchio' < b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' < b6
'Hotez, Peter Jay' < b6
b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; John Feigelson <
b6
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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich < roberts@neb.com>; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 b6
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here:
> https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214
>
> Washington Examiner BS article here:
> https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/
>
> Full text of tweet:
>
> **Post**

See new posts

Conversation

Pinned

<image003.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

<image001.png>
BREAKING
<image001.png>
@EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.

<image004.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturch b6 Roberts, Rick b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; b6
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.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

MORENS_NIH_047647
REL0000479302

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]>
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6]' <
[b6]g >
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails:
https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_NIH_047648
REL0000479302

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
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 < b6 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 b6
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_NIH_047649
REL0000479302

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6]; 'Alison Andre [b6]
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik [b6]
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]

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 < b6 > 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,

MORENS_NIH_047651
REL0000479302

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

MORENS_NIH_047652
REL0000479302

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,

MORENS_NIH_047653
REL0000479302

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_NIH_047654
REL0000479302

Date:	Sun, 15 Aug 2021 1:50:29 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 15 Aug 2021 1:48:49 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Sunday Wash Post editorial
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Robert Kessler b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Attachments:	image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.gif; image017.jpg

He's claiming he said nothing new, but it's now being used by the press – see article below from the UK Times today.

I wouldn't mind if they just stuck to slagging off the DG, WHO, Peter Ben Embarek etc., but of course the do a hit-job on me as well. It's just disgusting. I can't get through a week without more of this garbage, despite zero communication with the press.

China, the WHO and the power grab that fuelled a pandemic

In early 2020, the world missed its chance to stop Covid-19. Insight exposes how Beijing's ten-year takeover of the global health watchdog sowed the seeds of disaster

Play Video

Jonathan Calvert and George Arbuthnott | Insight

Saturday August 14 2021, 6.00pm BST, The Sunday Times

Share

After being heavily criticised by the World Health Organisation for its response to Sars in 2003, China decided it would not accept such public humiliation again. What followed was a concerted campaign over many years to seize power within the organisation.

A Sunday Times investigation raises serious concerns that the independence and leadership of the WHO were severely compromised by the time the first cases of a mysterious new coronavirus appeared in Wuhan in 2019 — with profound consequences for the course of the Covid-19 pandemic and the world.

Our investigation reveals:

- China secured WHO votes to install its chosen candidates as director-general.

• The WHO leadership prioritised China's economic interests over halting the spread of the virus when Covid-19 first emerged.

• China exerted ultimate control over the WHO investigation into the origins of Covid-19, appointing its chosen experts and negotiating a backroom deal to water down the mandate.

A catastrophe in the making

Barely eight months after taking charge, the director-general of the WHO gave a speech that would prove extraordinarily prophetic. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that all nations were facing the ever-present threat that a new respiratory illness, such as the Spanish flu, might emerge and spread across the globe in weeks or months, killing millions.

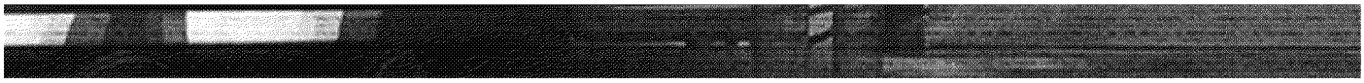
It was why, the Ethiopian told the audience at his keynote speech in Dubai in February 2018, he had made it his daily priority since becoming the WHO's chief to make sure he was up to date on the thousands of reports the health body received every month that might flag up signs of an outbreak.

The WHO, a Geneva-based United Nations agency with a £5 billion budget from 194 member states, was on a war footing. Tedros said it would act fast and decisively, because ignoring the signs of an outbreak could "be the difference between global spread of a deadly disease and rapid interruption of transmission". So far this "new tighter focus" was working, he added.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022744
MORENS_NIH_043748
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022745
MORENS_NIH_043749
REL0000479305



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus with Chinese premier Li Keqiang in 2017
GETTY IMAGES

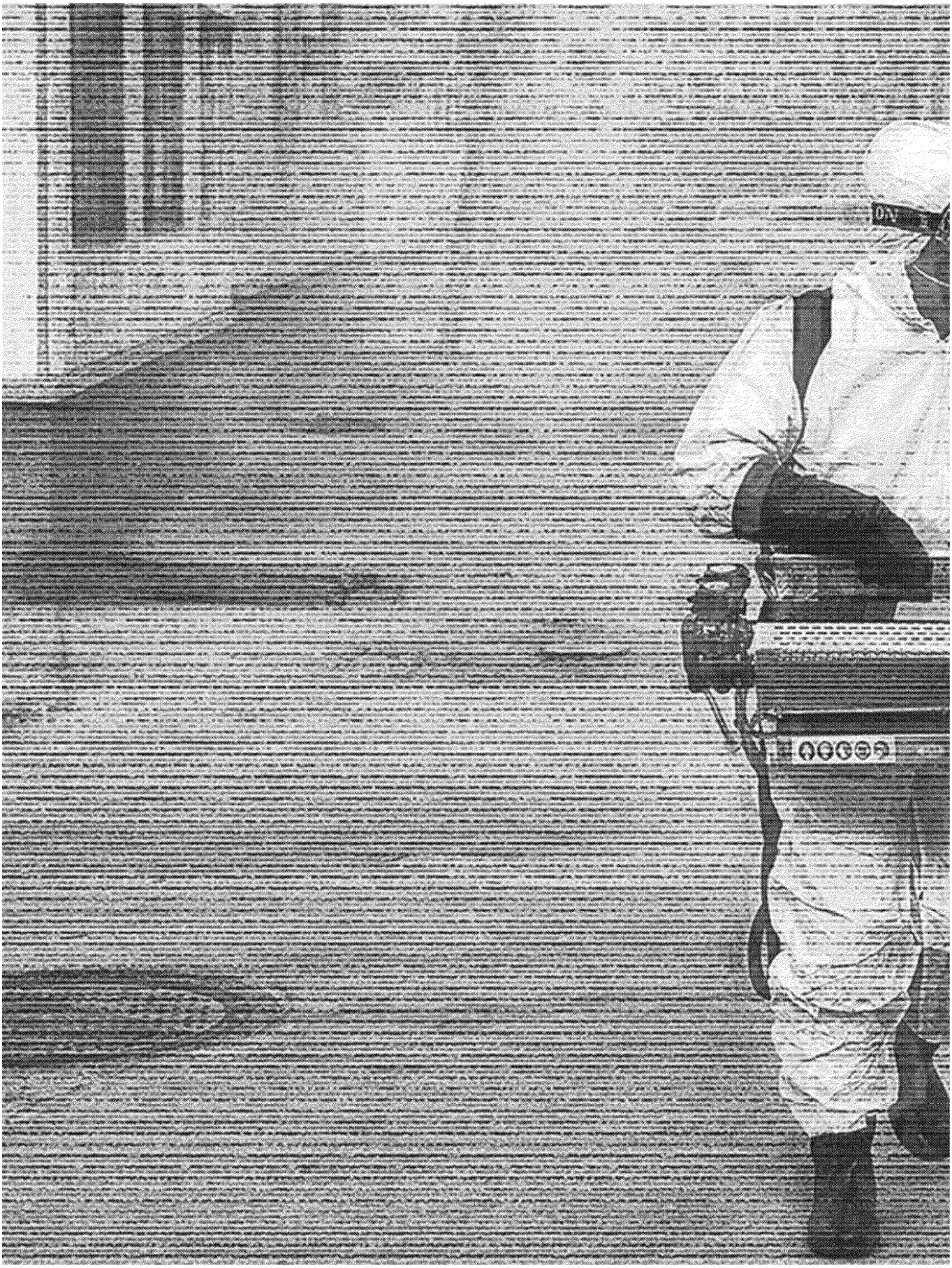
So when the first alert of a mysterious respiratory illness in China, exactly as Tedros had described, was reported by health monitors in Taiwan at the end of December 2019, the health agency should have been prepared and ready for action.

In fact the WHO would receive considerable criticism for failing to help stop the spread of the Sars-CoV-2 virus in the opening weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic. Not only did the organisation fail to act but it also promulgated misinformation about the virus originating from China and even discouraged other nations from taking steps that might have contained the spread. For all his foresight, Tedros would be accused of being ineffective when the big test came.

The world paid a heavy price for the WHO's inaction. As Tedros predicted, the virus has killed more than four million people, and there will be many more. The body that is charged with looking after the world's health seriously malfunctioned in those opening weeks, when humanity most needed it to come to the rescue. Why?

Our investigation reveals today how a concerted campaign over many years by Beijing to grab power inside the WHO appears to have fatally compromised its ability to respond to the crisis. It raises serious concerns about the extent of Beijing's influence over the WHO and its director-general, and how this undermined the organisation's capacity — and willingness — to take the steps necessary to avert a global pandemic. Its leadership put China's economic interests before public health concerns. The results have been nothing short of catastrophic.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022746
MORENS_NIH_043750
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022747
MORENS_NIH_043751
REL0000479305

Disinfection in a Chinese village in January 2020, when hospitals were being overwhelmed with Covid patients
CNSPHOTO/REUTERS

Beijing's man

It is a story that stretches back many years before the Covid-19 crisis. After being strongly criticised by the health agency for attempting to cover up the 2003 Sars crisis, China set out to increase its influence over the WHO. By applying financial and diplomatic leverage over some of the world's poorest nations, Beijing won a global power struggle to get its favoured candidates installed at the very top of the organisation.

As a result, years later, a body that was set up with the lofty goal of "attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health" has been co-opted into aiding the Chinese state's campaign for global economic dominance. Its leadership began to speak differently, espousing statements and pursuing policies that were markedly convenient to China — even praising Beijing's questionable allies such as North Korea, despite its appalling health and human rights record.

Beijing had been instrumental in installing Tedros as the £170,000-a-year head of the agency by pulling strings and calling in favours during the 2017 election for the job.

Tedros himself caused outrage by bestowing the role of WHO goodwill ambassador on Robert Mugabe, the notorious former Zimbabwean dictator, an appointment said to have had strong backing by the Chinese government, a long-standing close ally of the despot.

As hospitals became flooded with patients in Wuhan in January 2020, the health agency repeatedly relayed to the world the Chinese government's false claims that there was no evidence the virus could pass between humans. It made a specific point of cautioning countries not to impose bans on travel to and from the virus hotspots — which meant many weeks were lost before countries independently decided to seal their borders. The WHO's approach ensured that China's short-term economic prospects were protected. Meanwhile, the virus was allowed to spread round the globe like wildfire.

More recently, we can reveal, a backroom deal negotiated between the WHO and China has seriously damaged the chances of the world getting to the bottom of one of the most important questions facing mankind today: the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022748
MORENS_NIH_043752
REL0000479305

When the world's nations gave Tedros the job of discovering how the virus first came to infect humans, his team struck an agreement in secret with China that emasculated the inquiry. It meant that the WHO's "independent" mission — its fact-finding team travelled to Wuhan early this year to carry out an investigation — was, in the words of one expert, little more than a "shameful charade". There may well be no second chance.

Legacy of Sars

The health agency's reaction to Sars, the first pandemic crisis of the 21st century, had been very different. In many ways that lay at the root of the later difficulties that would come to a head with China.

The Sars outbreak started in November 2002, when a number of people in Guangdong province, southern China, began to fall ill with flu-like respiratory symptoms; by January 2003 infected patients were streaming into the region's hospitals.

The Chinese government had immediately enforced its strict laws, which classified all new infectious diseases as a state secret before they were officially announced by the ministry of health. As a result, the WHO was kept largely in the dark about the outbreak until the son of one of its former employees emailed the agency in February 2003 with some alarming news. The message described a mysterious virus in Guangdong that had already killed 100 people but claimed the authorities were insisting "it was not allowed to be made known to the public".

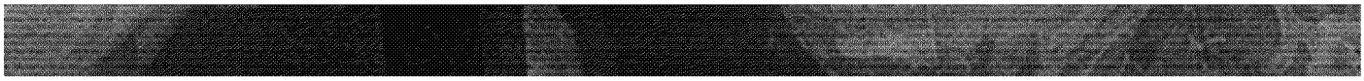
The cat was out of the bag, and after stern questions from the health agency China did share some limited information about the new virus the following day. However, government officials in Guangzhou, the city at the centre of the outbreak, were still maintaining that the illness was under control. This was untrue. Sars had already spread to other parts of China.

The Chinese were still anxious to play down the extent of the outbreak. At one stage 30 patients with the virus were said to have been driven round Beijing in ambulances, and 40 others were moved out of a hospital into a hotel to hide their existence from a visiting team of WHO scientists.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022749
MORENS_NIH_043753
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022750
MORENS_NIH_043754
REL0000479305



Tough on China: former WHO director-general Gro Harlem Brundtland
PAUL HILTON/EPA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

China's reluctance to disclose the duration, scale and evolution of the disease led Gro Harlem Brundtland, then the WHO director-general, to get tough. She was a former prime minister of Norway and not scared of ruffling feathers. "Brundtland was a very brave politician with a lot of legitimacy," recalls Gian Luca Burci, a legal adviser to the WHO at the time. "She didn't shy away from criticising China and basically saying, 'We don't believe you. You should come clean.'"

Brundtland put pressure on China and took the brave decision to issue strong advice against travelling to the affected areas, which included Hong Kong and Toronto as the virus spread.

"The WHO really stepped into a vacuum, and it really exerted its authority as an emergency manager," Burci said. "I would say the unanimous perception is that the WHO played a central role and essential role in allowing Sars to be controlled in a matter of months."

Brundtland publicly criticised China's cover-up and said the outbreak might have been contained if the WHO had been alerted earlier. "Next time something strange and new comes anywhere in the world, let us come in as quickly as possible," she urged.

The virus was brought under control in the early summer with only 8,000 cases and just under 800 deaths. The public ticking-off had been humiliating for Beijing. There was also an economic price for China: the health agency's travel advice had contributed to an estimated $6 billion loss to the country's GDP.

China began taking a keen interest in the WHO after the bruising it received over Sars. A senior source now working at the health agency has described how in 2005 Beijing was behind a group of countries that attempted to "limit" the authority of its director-general.

Their efforts led to new regulations for the WHO's governance, which compel the director-general to consult an emergency committee — made up of international experts and often including a China representative — before he or she calls an international public health emergency or recommends travel restrictions.

A further opportunity for China to extend its influence within the agency presented itself a year later

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022751
MORENS_NIH_043755
REL0000479305

when Brundtland's recently appointed successor as director-general, the Korean doctor Lee Jong-wook, suddenly died after undergoing brain surgery.

One of the leading candidates was Dr Margaret Chan, a Chinese national. She was a former Hong Kong health director who had been criticised during the Sars crisis for her supine attitude to mainland China. The Hong Kong legislative council found she had been too slow to respond to the Sars outbreak and too unquestioning of the misleading information from Beijing. Hong Kong suffered a higher Sars death rate than anywhere else in the world.

Chan had, nonetheless, moved to a new job with the WHO in Geneva, and when Jong-wook died, the Beijing government rallied behind her candidacy, ordering its embassies to lobby international friends to get behind her in the November 2006 election to choose a replacement.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022752
MORENS_NIH_043756
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022753
MORENS_NIH_043757
REL0000479305



Margaret Chan drew criticism as Hong Kong's health chief for believing China's claims about the 2002-04 Sars outbreak
FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Just five days before the vote, a summit was held in Beijing for leaders of the African nations. China pledged to cancel large amounts of their debts and double aid donations to the continent in a move that was openly acknowledged by state-backed analysts in the country as designed to secure backing for Chan.

It was an "extraordinarily aggressive campaign", according to Professor Lawrence Gostin, the director of the WHO's Collaborating Centre on Public Health Law and Human Rights. "[China] got burnt really badly during Sars," he said, adding: "It wanted someone much more friendly and gentle if an outbreak came again."

Chan won with two thirds of the votes in the final ballot. China had succeeded in getting its candidate to the top "precisely to avoid another humiliation", according to a source working at the WHO at the time.

The African link

During her 10-year reign in the agency's top job, Chan certainly gave the appearance that she was very grateful to China for propelling her into the role. In April 2010 she made a trip to North Korea, one of China's neighbours and allies, and made the extraordinary claim the country's health system was the "envy" of most developing nations.

A few months later a report by the human rights group Amnesty International described the shambolic state of North Korea's "crumbling" health system. Hospitals at times lacked heat, power and medicines, the report said, and amputations were sometimes performed in candlelight without anaesthesia by doctors who were living on the poverty line because their wages were not paid.

Chan made a number of key appointments that appeared carefully calculated to please the Chinese government. In 2011 she made the Chinese soprano Peng Liyuan a WHO goodwill ambassador, praising the singer's "world-famous voice" and "compassionate heart". The other reason Chan might have selected Peng was not mentioned.

Peng is married to Xi Jinping, China's president. She holds the rank of major-general in the People's Liberation Army and wore her uniform to sing for the troops after they quashed the pro-democracy

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022754
MORENS_NIH_043758
REL0000479305

protests in Tiananmen Square. Chinese state censors have since attempted to erase these pictures from the internet.

Chan also chose to appoint China Central Television's James Chau a goodwill ambassador. Later, during the 2020 pandemic, more than 100 UN-affiliated associations would write to the WHO calling for him to be removed from the role because he was a well-known propagandist for the Chinese government.

The biggest test for Chan was also the moment she drew the most criticism — and there was a Beijing link to this too. She took two months to declare an international emergency over the 2014 ebola outbreak despite repeated warnings from her own experts.

Leaked emails obtained by the Associated Press revealed that the delay was caused by WHO officials who did not want to upset the African countries hit by the outbreak and damage their economies. More than 1,000 people died during the delay.

One of the countries affected, Guinea, had struck a big mining rights deal that allowed a state-backed Chinese firm to excavate one of the world's biggest untapped iron ore reserves. Fearing that the foreign investors might be scared away, Alpha Condé, then the country's president, claimed that ebola was under control in Guinea in a speech at the WHO's Geneva headquarters.

His lie went unchallenged. "Margaret Chan's WHO was accused of being too close to Alpha Condé," the senior source from the WHO said. In the end the UN took the highly unusual step of appointing David Nabarro, a British doctor, to co-ordinate the international effort on ebola because it was so concerned about the WHO's failure to get to grips with the outbreak.

In 2017 Chan crowned her final year in office by welcoming Xi to Geneva. While he was there, she signed an agreement that committed the WHO to working alongside China on health as part of the country's Belt and Road initiative. It was the first time any UN agency had signed up to the initiative, which seeks to extend Chinese influence and trade in more than 70 developing countries by financing infrastructure projects.

The initiative is highly controversial because its critics argue that China uses it to shackle countries, particularly in Africa, to "unsustainable debt" as a way of gaining access to the continent's raw materials and buying political favours.

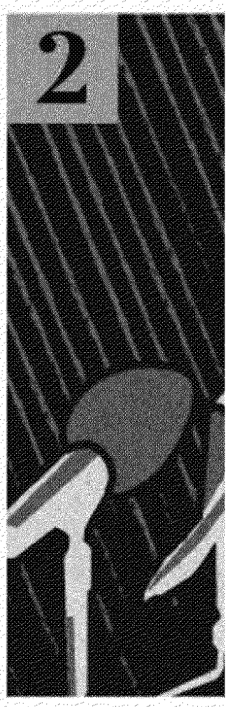
MORENS_SUBPOENA_022755
MORENS_NIH_043759
REL0000479305

“I think health is too special to get into the really seedy politics that Belt and Road is part of, and I wouldn’t want the WHO to be associated with it,” Gostin argues. “The cost in terms of human rights and debt, and other adverse events for Africa, was a bridge too far.”



2003

The World Health Organisation’s director-general, Gro Harlem Brundtland, takes strong and decisive action during the Sars crisis, exposing China’s cover-up of the outbreak and recommending restrictions on travel to virus hotspots. Fearless leadership by Brundtland, a former Norwegian prime minister, helps to bring a swift end to the pandemic, which causes 800 deaths



2006

As Brundt
WHO co
have used
including
Africa, to
Chan, will
director-g
censured
misleading

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022756
MORENS_NIH_043760
REL0000479305

Turning on the money taps

Under bright skies in the rolling parkland on the banks of Lake Geneva a large group of protesters with placards gathered outside the Palace of Nations for the 70th meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the body with representatives from all UN member states that controls the WHO.

The protest that day — May 22, 2017 — was against Tedros standing to replace Chan, who had served her final term. The demonstrators were highlighting human rights abuses by the Ethiopian regime, which was reported to have tortured dissidents, displaced villages and ordered police massacres of protesters. Until the previous year Tedros had been a minister in that Ethiopian government.

Tedros, a former epidemiologist then aged 52, had been the health and then foreign minister after joining the government in 2005. Last year David Steinman, a US economist nominated for the Nobel peace prize, called for Tedros to be personally prosecuted for genocide over his alleged involvement directing Ethiopia's security forces. He denies any involvement in human rights abuses despite his lengthy period in government.

As foreign minister Tedros had formed a close relationship with China. He would often praise the Chinese leadership, which invested more money in Ethiopia than any other country did. In 2014 he wrote a joint article with the Chinese foreign minister in the state-controlled China Daily newspaper that waxed lyrical about the bond between the countries. "We are sincere friends, reliable partners and good brothers who share both happiness and adversity, each rejoicing in the successes the other has achieved," they wrote.

The African Union countries had wanted their candidate to replace Chan as director-general. They had previously helped Chan get elected, and it was now their turn. As an African with close links to China, Tedros was the perfect candidate.

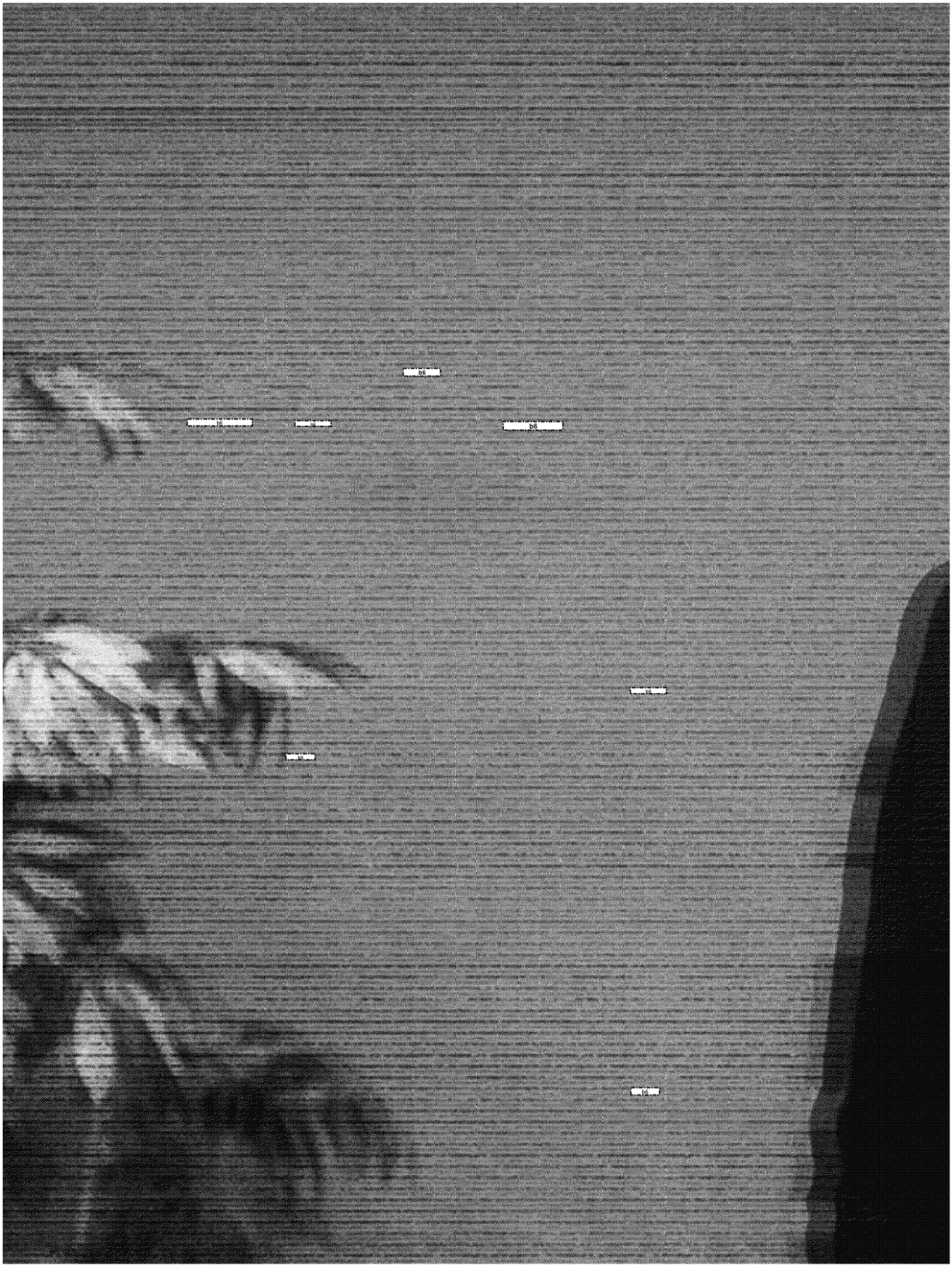
As the election approached, China had again turned on the money taps. A month before the vote, a multinational ministerial conference was held in Pretoria ostensibly with the aim of stepping up China-Africa co-operation in health. During the conference China agreed to offer a cataract surgery programme for free to the African countries.

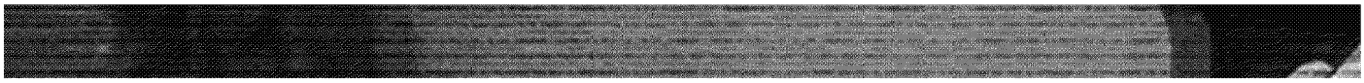
Then, nine days before polling, Xi hosted an event in Beijing at which he pledged more than $100 billion in extra funding for its Belt and Road initiative — a large portion of which would be channelled into

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022757
MORENS_NIH_043761
REL0000479305

investment in developing countries. This included new investment in Kenya, Indonesia and Hungary.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022758
MORENS_NIH_043762
REL0000479305





David Nabarro witnessed at first hand the WHO leadership's incompetence during the Ebola crisis
FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Tedros's main opponent was Nabarro, whose first-hand experience of the WHO leadership's incompetence during the ebola crisis had convinced him of the need for reform. Nabarro was not alone in his concerns about the WHO, and he reportedly received support from the US, the UK and Canada. This appears to have been the first time the West had woken up to China's creeping influence over the health agency.

The contest between the two men for the WHO director-generalship took place under new rules that had been introduced by Chan. Previously, the director-general had been chosen by the 34 members of the WHA executive board, but the new rules gave an equal vote to all the assembly's 194 member states.

Critics of the rule change, such as J Michael Cole of the Canadian think tank the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, have pointed out that the WHO was essentially copying the electoral system that propped up the famously corrupt regime of the former Fifa president Sepp Blatter.

As with football's governing body, tiny countries that might be susceptible to financial aid were given an equal vote to countries many times their size. Cole said tiny island countries such as those in the Pacific were "easy targets" for Chinese influence.

During the campaign Gostin, who was supporting Nabarro, accused Tedros of covering up three cholera outbreaks during his time as Ethiopia's health minister. Tedros again strongly denied the allegations. Certainly the mud did not stick. With China's help he won by 133 votes to Nabarro's 50.

'Model' China

Within a month of taking over in July 2017, Tedros was on his way to China to emphasise the health agency's continued commitment to the partnership under the Belt and Road initiative.

"China's long experience and expertise in health systems and policies will be invaluable to achieving the WHO's global priorities, especially in health crisis management," he wrote in the China Daily. "China can share its lessons learnt and best practices with other countries, offering them models of success."

Months later Tedros made an extraordinary announcement, seemingly without consulting colleagues. He

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022760
MORENS_NIH_043764
REL0000479305

had appointed Mugabe, the tyrannical Zimbabwean president, as a goodwill ambassador for the WHO. Diplomatic sources affiliated to the health agency have told us that the honouring of Mugabe was made at the behest of Beijing as a political payoff for the dictator's years as a staunch ally of the Chinese government.

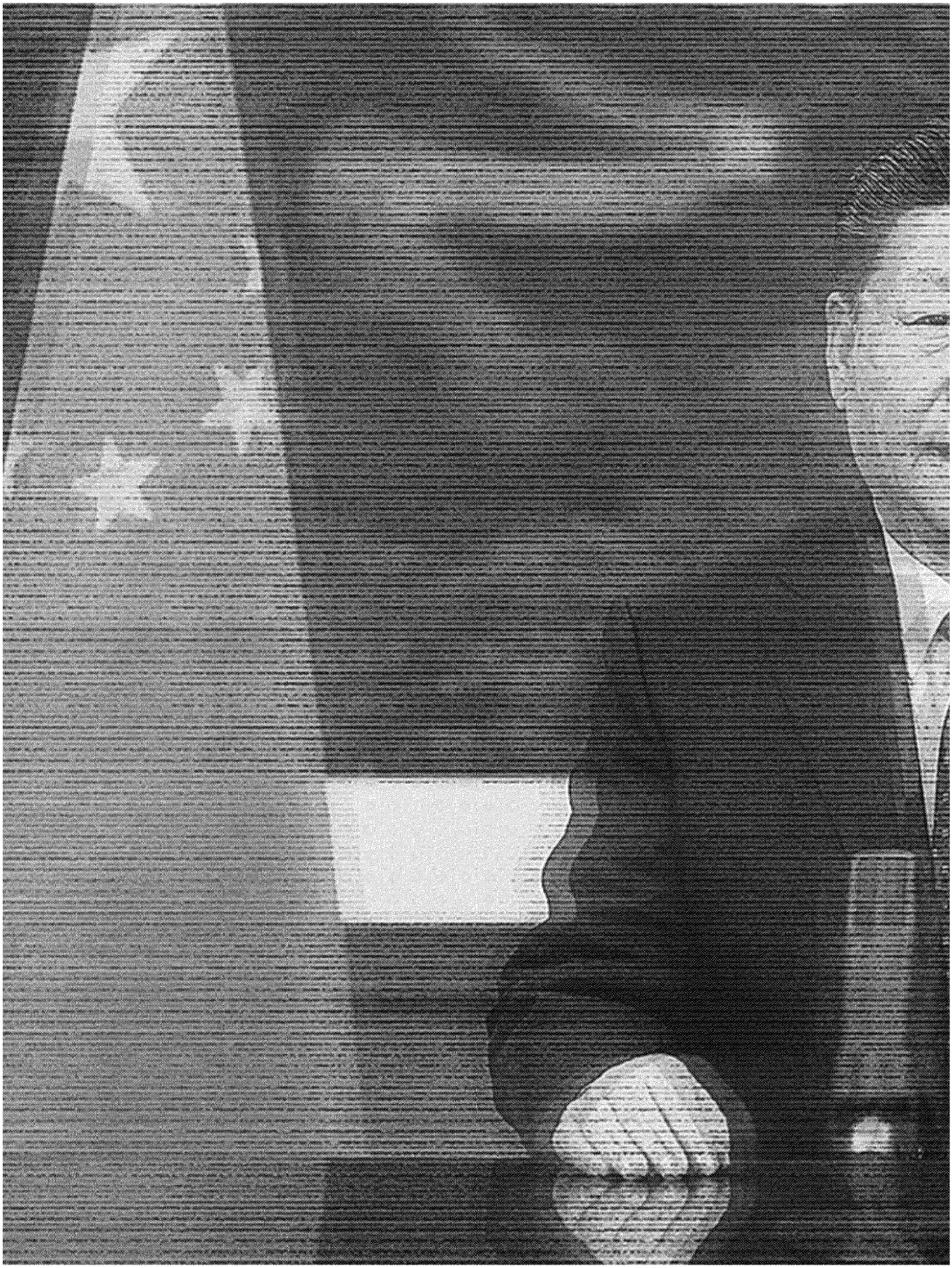
Xi has described Zimbabwe as China's "all-weather friend". In turn Mugabe called Xi "a God-sent person". The Chinese government's connection to Mugabe stretches back to the 1970s, when it helped fund his guerrilla war in Zimbabwe before he took power. More recently it ploughed cash into his regime when it was struggling under western sanctions.

It was an ill-judged move by Tedros. The Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, described the announcement as a "bad April Fool's joke", Ireland's health minister said it was "offensive and bizarre" and the UK prime minister's office said it was "surprising and disappointing, particularly in light of the current US and EU sanctions against [Mugabe]".

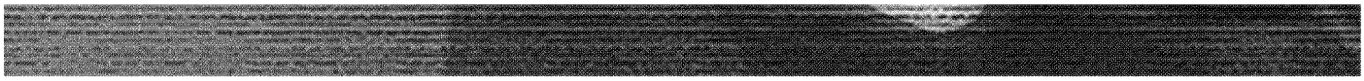
There was particular bemusement because Zimbabwe's healthcare system had deteriorated so badly under Mugabe's rule that he himself had sought treatment at a luxurious private hospital in Singapore rather than trust his own country's doctors. A report by the group Physicians for Human Rights in 2009 gave examples of how Mugabe had damaged his own health system in his efforts to cling on to power.

The appointment was withdrawn just four days after Tedros announced it. But it did not stop him continuing to lavish praise on China's leaders. Nine months later, on another trip to Beijing in July 2018, he described China's health reforms as "a model for universal health coverage" and "a bulwark against health emergencies". In other words, they would help to prevent a future pandemic.

One of the oddities of China's influence within the WHO was that it managed to achieve it while paying little money towards the running of the organisation. In 2018-19 China gave the health agency $89 million, whereas the UK contributed $464 million and the US $853 million.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022762
MORENS_NIH_043766
REL0000479305



Tedros praised President Xi's 'rare leadership' as Covid spread across the world in January 2020
LI XUEREN/XINHUA/AP

Gostin described the vast shortfall as "galling". He is critical of the way China instead uses its money to pay for health projects in deals it negotiates directly with individual countries. This gives Beijing more diplomatic and economic leverage with the countries themselves. "China's foreign policy is extraordinarily mercantile and self-interested," he said. "It's all done on bilateral country negotiations, where [China] has got a ton of leverage."

China has used this approach to take over other parts of the UN system. In June 2019 a Chinese candidate was elected head of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, after reports that Beijing had cancelled $78 million of Cameroon's debt in exchange for the withdrawal from the race of a candidate from the country. It meant that, of the UN's 15 specialised agencies, four were headed by Chinese nationals.

The cover-up begins

The main "bulwark" at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic was a wall of secrecy in China. On December 30, 2019, Dr Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, sent a message to medical colleagues in an online chat forum suggesting they wear protective clothing because he had seen several cases of a virus that appeared to be transmitted between humans like Sars.

Li was summoned for an inquisition by the authorities, with seven of his friends. They were investigated for "spreading rumours" and warned against "publishing fictitious discourse". Li would later die from Covid-19.

The following day — the last of the year — the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission publicly admitted for the first time that a number of people had been struck down with a similar illness in a bland public announcement reporting 27 cases of pneumonia-like infection.

What the statement did not say was that the illness had already been identified by the Chinese authorities as a new coronavirus — not unlike Sars — that appeared to be passing between humans. This crucial information — as well as any indication of the alarm already secretly felt by scientific and health officials in China — was withheld from the world.

However, earlier that day Taiwan had been closely monitoring reports in the Chinese media that might

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022763
MORENS_NIH_043767
REL0000479305

indicate a new medical phenomenon and it noted that an internal hospital alert had been reported in an obscure business publication. The Taiwanese authorities sent the WHO an email raising concerns about a number of "atypical pneumonia cases" in Wuhan that had been "isolated for treatment". The only reason patients would need to be isolated was that Chinese hospitals feared the virus could pass between humans.

The health agency did not heed the Taiwanese warning. The island's relations with the WHO were strained because of China's claims of sovereignty over its territory.

In the months before the pandemic Beijing had used its influence to block the island from attending meetings of the WHA for a third year in a row. The UK and the US were among a number of nations that wanted Taiwan to be given access and had warned Tedros that the country's absence "created serious gaps in the global health security system".

Taiwan's vice-president, Chen Chien-jen, an epidemiologist by training, would later accuse the WHO of brushing aside this early evidence it had provided on suspected human-to-human transmission and of failing to pass the early warning on to the world. In the weeks that followed, the island's relationship with the WHO deteriorated further when Tedros wrongly claimed in public that it was behind a series of racist online attacks against him.

In the first two weeks of January desperate scenes were unfolding at Wuhan hospitals as patients with flu-like symptoms began to flood in. The mayhem and death were described by Dr Peng Zhiyong, the director of the intensive care unit in Wuhan University's Zhongnan Hospital, several weeks later in an interview he gave to the Chinese media outlet Caixin Global.

Within four days of the arrival of the first patient, Peng said, all 16 intensive care beds were full and the situation was "dire". More than 40 members of his team then contracted the disease from patients. Things were even worse at another hospital in the city, where two thirds of intensive care staff had reportedly been infected.

The doctors fought the epidemic in gruelling conditions. Some wore nappies inside their protective suits to avoid taking breaks. Peng said many patients were turned away because the hospitals could not cope. "Some patients even knelt down to beg me to accept [them]. But there was nothing I could do since all the beds were occupied," he said. "I shed tears while I turned them down. I have run out of tears now."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022764
MORENS_NIH_043768
REL0000479305

The doctors were in no doubt the virus was passing rapidly between humans. Few of Peng's colleagues went home after their shifts, for fear they would infect their families.

Yet the Chinese authorities systematically tried to cover up the human spread by issuing diktats, suppressing whistleblowers and scrubbing social media. On January 3 a confidential notice was issued forbidding labs to publish details of the virus without authorisation. On January 6 the hashtag #WuhanSARS appeared online, but posts on Twitter were swiftly censored.

The authorities also withheld work that had been done to sequence the coronavirus's genome, which had been completed by January 3 — a decision that delayed international scientists from developing tests for the virus.

It was the beginning of exactly the type of crisis that Tedros had warned of in his 2018 Dubai speech. He had been clear at the time that ignoring the signs of an outbreak could be the difference between containing a deadly disease and allowing it to spread.

But, at the beginning of the biggest pandemic for more than a hundred years, the health agency simply took the Chinese explanations about the outbreak at face value. On January 10 the WHO issued a statement saying: "From the currently available information, preliminary investigation suggests that there is no significant human-to-human transmission, and no infections among healthcare workers have occurred."

Both statements were untrue, and the agency did not even attempt to couch its language in a way that would have made clear that these were merely claims made by China. Instead it was mindful of the need to avoid taking measures that might damage the Chinese economy. "WHO advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China," its statement went on.

However, staff at the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Centre laboratory were growing increasingly anxious about the need to develop tests for the virus in the hope they might be available before millions of people crisscrossed the country for the lunar new year celebrations later that month. So they took matters into their own hands and shared the genetic code they had sequenced on a US computer database called GenBank, which is available to scientists around the world. It was published on January 11. When the Chinese authorities learnt of the leak, the Shanghai lab was instantly closed for "rectification". But China's secret was out and the Wuhan Institute of Virology was forced to share its information on the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022765
MORENS_NIH_043769
REL0000479305

coronavirus with the health agency.

By now some officials inside the WHO were becoming frustrated that their repeated requests for data from China were being rebuffed. Leaked recordings of one of the health agency's meetings in the second week of January show that Dr Michael Ryan, the WHO's Irish chief of emergencies, wanted to apply more pressure on China as he could see that the crisis was becoming a repeat of the 2003 Sars disaster.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022766
MORENS_NIH_043770
REL0000479305





Chinese authorities desperately tried to cover up the spread of the coronavirus
NOEL CELIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"This is exactly the same scenario — endlessly trying to get updates from China about what was going on," he said in the recording obtained by the AP news agency. "The WHO barely got out of that one with its neck intact, given the issues that arose around transparency in southern China."

Ryan appears to have been keen to raise the lack of co-operation by China in public, pointing out that the health agency had criticised Tanzania a few months earlier for withholding details of an ebola outbreak. "We have to be consistent," Ryan said. "The danger now is that despite our good intent ... especially if something does happen, there will be a lot of finger-pointing at the WHO."

But such behind-the-scenes concerns did not alter the WHO's public messaging. "WHO is reassured of the quality of the ongoing investigations and the response measures implemented in Wuhan, and the commitment to share information regularly," it said in a statement on January 12. "At this stage there is no infection among healthcare workers, and no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission," it added calmly.

Deadly delay

On the morning of January 13 the first case of an infection outside China was found in Thailand. That day Tedros announced that he was giving thought to whether he should call a meeting of the WHO emergency committee, which consists of about 20 international experts, including one from China.

The emergency body plays a key role in deciding whether the director-general should declare an infectious outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). Meetings are held in confidence because PHEIC declarations can damage business, travel and tourism in an affected country, according to a source on the committee.

The growing outbreak in China could have been declared an emergency under the health agency's criterion, which requires a crisis to be "an extraordinary event" that might cause "a public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease".

But Tedros decided to wait, and nine more days passed before he even gathered the committee members for their advice. During this period he was talking directly on the phone about the outbreak to Ma

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022768
MORENS_NIH_043772
REL0000479305

Xiaowei, the Chinese minister of health, whom he had described warmly as his "brother" in a tweet on January 11.

According to the health agency's official timeline of events, it first warned that the virus might be transmitted between people on January 14. It is certainly true that Maria Van Kerkhove, the American acting head of emerging diseases, acknowledged in a briefing that there might be some evidence of "limited human-to-human transmission, potentially among families". But she was corrected by the WHO official Twitter account a few hours later: "Investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel #coronavirus." A further five days would go by in which the WHO issued another denial about hospital staff in Wuhan contracting the virus.

Finally on January 19 the health agency's regional office in the western Pacific announced clearly that the virus could pass between humans, albeit with the qualification that the transmission was "limited".

By now the emergency situation in Wuhan was so desperate that the Chinese authorities were preparing to build the 1,000-bed Huoshenshan Hospital in just 10 days. The virus had spread to Beijing, and it was no longer credible to pretend it could not pass between humans.

Therefore, on January 20 — three weeks after Taiwan's warning — China's health ministry admitted that it did have evidence that medical staff had been infected. It meant the health agency could no longer delay. Tedros summoned a meeting of the emergency committee, which deliberated on January 22 and 23.

The number of known cases jumped from 314 to 581 during those two days and the virus had spread to 24 regions of China, killing 18 people. The true figures will have been many times greater because of underreporting by China. And the virus had now escaped the country's borders: ten cases had been identified in four other countries.

For reasons that are unclear because of the secrecy of its meetings, the members of the emergency committee were split on what action to take after an update on the crisis was provided by the Chinese representative. The advice they gave Tedros was equivocal, and he decided to avoid taking the diplomatically fraught decision of imposing an international public health emergency on China.

In a press briefing on January 23 he reasoned that there was "an emergency in China ... but it has not yet

become a global health emergency", adding that he wished to thank the country's government for its "co-operation and transparency".

The protection of Beijing's interests continued the following day when the health agency issued a statement reiterating that countries should not impose travel restrictions on China, even though the situation in Wuhan had become so dire that the city had imposed a full lockdown, then unprecedented in modern times. Yet the inaction by the health body sent a clear signal to the world that this new coronavirus might not be as serious as was feared.

The calm ripples of this cool approach were felt in Britain a day later. Matt Hancock, the health minister, chaired the first meeting of the Cobra national security committee, which spent an hour discussing the virus before concluding that the risk to the UK public was "low". Hancock had first been alerted to the unusual pneumonia-like cases on January 3 but the government had done little in the meantime to prepare for the potential arrival of the virus. Downing Street would later defend Boris Johnson's decision to skip the Cobra meeting — the first of five the prime minister missed — by pointing out that the WHO had not considered the crisis sufficiently serious to declare a global emergency.
By Tuesday January 28 four weeks had passed since Taiwan raised the initial alarm and there was still no evidence of the fast and decisive action that Tedros had said was necessary to combat an outbreak in his Dubai speech. That day he met Xi, the Chinese president, in Beijing and emerged from the encounter full of praise for his hosts.

He said Xi had shown "rare leadership" and deserved "gratitude and respect" for acting to contain the outbreak at the epicentre. These "extraordinary steps" had prevented further spread of the virus, and this was why, he said, there were only "a few cases of human-to-human transmission outside China, which we are monitoring very closely".

Tedros even claimed that China was "completely committed to transparency", pointing out that it had shared the genomic sequence of the virus "immediately" — when in fact the lab that leaked the sequence had been punished by the country's authorities for defying the censors.

If the words of Tedros's speech suggested he and China had everything under control, nothing could have been further from the truth. The virus was spreading fast across the globe.

By this point a crucial four weeks had been lost because China had covered up the highly infectious

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022770
MORENS_NIH_043774
REL0000479305

nature of Sars-CoV-2 while the WHO had repeated its claims unquestioningly. The health agency had failed in its single most important job — to swiftly sound the alarm.

Professor Richard Ebright, of Rutgers University's Waksman Institute of Microbiology in New Jersey, a fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America, believes China's influence over the WHO played "a decisive role" in the agency's failure to act decisively at the start of the pandemic.

"Not only did it have a role; it has had a decisive role," he said. "It was the only motivation. There was no scientific or medical or policy justification for the stance that the WHO took in January and February 2020. That was entirely premised on maintaining satisfactory ties to the Chinese government. So at every step of the way, the WHO promoted the position that was sought by the Chinese government ... the WHO actively resisted and obstructed efforts by other nations to implement effective border controls that could have limited the spread or even contained the spread of the outbreak."

He added: "It is impossible for me to believe that the officials in Geneva, who were making those statements, believed those statements accorded with the facts that were available to them at the time the statements were made.

"It's hard not to see that the direct origin of that is the support of the Chinese government for Tedros's election as director-general ... This was a remarkably high return on [China's] investment with the relatively small sums that were invested in supporting his election. It paid off on a grand scale for the Chinese government."

David Fidler, a former WHO legal adviser, is scathing about Tedros's "obsequious" praise for Xi and suspects that "the WHO knew China was not being transparent, particularly about information related to human-to-human transmission". He added: "The praise that he heaped on China gave them no incentive to change their behaviour."

Tedros finally declared an international public health emergency on January 30. By then the virus had been detected in 18 countries and was almost certainly lurking undetected in many others.

The WHO's failure to act had blown the world's only chance to contain the pandemic at source, Ebright believes. "Ironically, China's success in curbing the spread and containing the spread by implementing appropriate border controls ... tells us that, had this been done globally, in January, this outbreak could

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022771
MORENS_NIH_043775
REL0000479305

have been potentially contained," he said.

"We can see what happened when Taiwan, cut off from WHA guidance and shunned by the WHO, made its own decisions and was largely Covid-free for 2020 and even through 2021. Had other nations implemented tight border restrictions by the middle of January, the situation would have been very different."

A year later a report by an independent panel set up at the request of the WHA was critical of the delay in calling the emergency. The panel, led by the former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark, said the health agency should have assumed human-to-human transmission and issued warnings as a precaution, given what was known about respiratory infections.

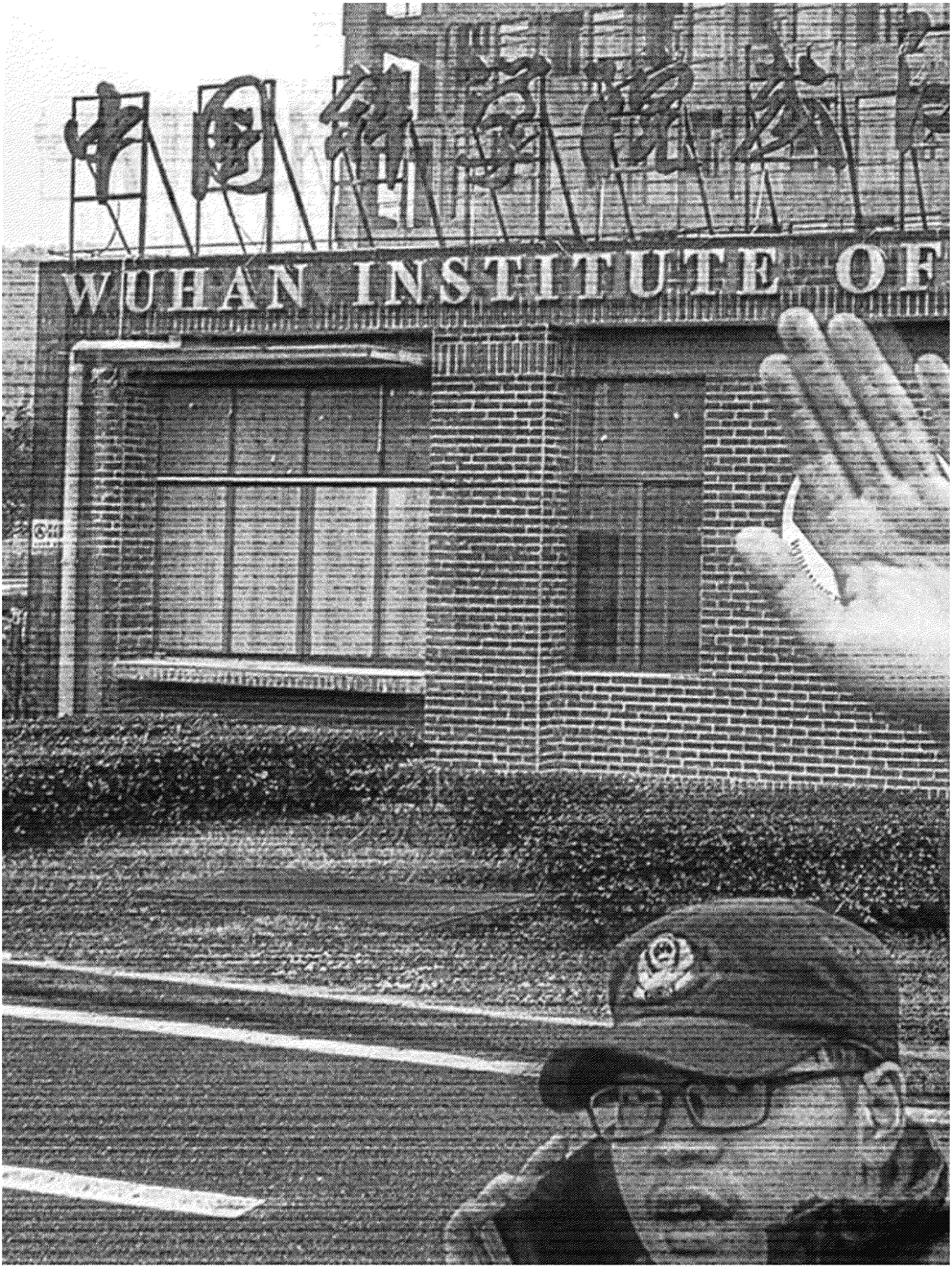
Even after the global emergency was declared, the travel advice remained the same. At a meeting of the WHO executive board in Geneva on February 3, Tedros claimed the spread of the virus outside China was "minimal and slow" and there was no need to introduce measures that "unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade".

This prompted an outburst from the appreciative Chinese delegate to the board. Li Song, an ambassador to the UN, leapt to his feet and denounced countries that were blocking the entry of travellers from Hubei, the province of which Wuhan is the capital. "All these measures are seriously against recommendation by the WHO," he fumed.

In fact, while the health agency did later give advice that travellers should be screened to detect flu symptoms at airports, it never did explicitly support any restrictions on travel to and from China. By the end of March 2020 many countries across the world had ignored the health agency's advice and instituted some form of travel ban.

Gostin believes China's cover-up in January was "the singular important event in the course of the pandemic" because it blew the world's "only shot" of containing the crisis at source.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022772
MORENS_NIH_043776
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022773
MORENS_NIH_043777
REL0000479305



The Wuhan institute was meant to develop vaccines in advance of outbreaks
ROMAN PILIPEY/EPA

A flawed investigation

If the cordial relationship between Tedros and China had survived the opening months of the pandemic, the strength of their friendship would be tested once again in the early summer of 2020. It was over the very important, yet highly sensitive, issue of how and where the virus originated.

The Sars outbreak in 2003 is thought to have originated in bats in Yunnan province, southwest China, and to have been introduced into markets in the surrounding area through an intermediary host animal. Sars-CoV-2 is believed to have had similar beginnings because of its resemblance to other bat coronaviruses.

However, the caves in Yunnan province are more than a thousand miles from Wuhan, and no bats containing such viruses have ever been found near that city. If an intermediate animal, or indeed a human, had been infected by a bat in Yunnan, how could this very infectious virus be carried on such a long journey to Wuhan without causing a single noticeable outbreak along the way?

The Chinese had tested thousands of animals in Wuhan and the surrounding areas, but not one had come up positive for the virus. Chinese scientists had also rejected the suggestion that the virus entered through the Huanan seafood market in the city, which was connected to some of the cases in December 2019.

Extensive sample-testing at the market failed to show a link between any of the animals there and the virus. It was also clear that many of the early human cases had no link to the market, and the conclusion was that the market was a crowded environment in which the virus had spread, rather than the point of introduction into Wuhan.

But there was an elephant in the room. Coronaviruses found in the Yunnan bat caves, including the world's closest known match to Sars-CoV-2, were being kept at the Wuhan Institute of Virology at the time of the outbreak. To many it seemed a remarkable coincidence that, of all the 600 cities in China, the virus began in Wuhan, the home of an institute that houses the world's largest collection of coronaviruses from wild bats and has a team of scientists who often travel to those same Yunnan caves.

The scientists had been seeking out coronavirus-infected bats and then transporting the viruses back to the laboratory in Wuhan. There they carried out highly controversial "gain of function" experiments to make the viruses more infectious to humans. The work was designed to help develop vaccines to pre-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022774
MORENS_NIH_043778
REL0000479305

empt a potential coronavirus outbreak, but many scientists had warned that one safety lapse could itself cause a deadly pandemic.

Only a tiny handful of labs in the world carried out such high-risk experiments, and in 2018 inspectors sent by the US embassy in Beijing to the Wuhan institute had flagged serious safety concerns there. A US diplomatic cable leaked to The Washington Post stated: "During interactions with scientists at the WIV laboratory, they noted the new lab has a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory."

There were therefore questions about whether the pandemic had been caused by a leak from the Wuhan institute or one of its researchers who had been infected in the bat caves and then accidentally carried the virus back to the city. It was certainly not inconceivable: the Sars virus had leaked from the National Institute of Virology lab in Beijing in 2004. Nine people were infected by the outbreak and one died.

There were serious concerns about what the Wuhan institute had been doing with the world's closest known match to the Covid-19 virus, which was the strongest lead in the hunt for the pandemic's origin. It had been found eight years ago by Wuhan scientists in an abandoned mine, where it had been linked to deaths caused by a coronavirus-type respiratory illness. But the significance of the deaths had been kept secret by the Chinese authorities until a Sunday Times investigation uncovered them in the summer of last year. The lab has refused to answer questions on whether it was experimenting on the virus in the run-up to the pandemic.

Indeed China had been reluctant to address many questions about the pandemic's origins since January 2020, other than to issue blanket denials. It did not want the ignominy of being found culpable for the world's worst pandemic for a century.

The subject had become politically charged. Donald Trump, then the US president, had weighed in and alleged China might be culpable. Right-wingers in America were calling for multibillion-dollar reparations from China if it was proved to have caused the pandemic.

So a demand for an investigation of the origins of the virus by the Australian prime minister, Scott Morrison, on April 22 was not welcomed in Beijing. Morrison called for the WHO to appoint independent investigators, akin to weapons inspectors, and urged the international community to back a plan to track down the virus's origins in China. In the weeks that followed, China imposed trade sanctions on Australia's beef and barley.

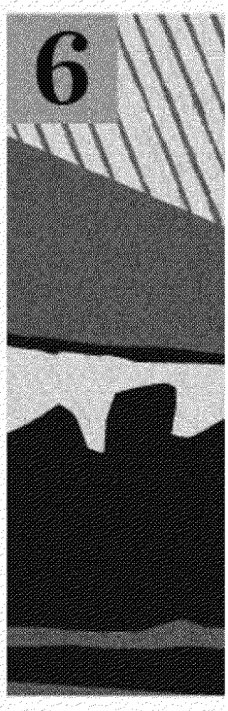
Morrison had started a hare running. It was important to find the origin of the virus but there was much resistance by China, leading to some tough negotiating behind the scenes at the WHA. Many countries wanted an investigation to start immediately, but Chinese diplomats managed to fight that off. In the end it was the EU countries that brokered a compromise. "There were negotiations over every word," said a source in the WHO.

On May 19 the assembly agreed on a form of words for the inquiry. The resolution required the director-general of the WHO to work closely with member states to "identify the zoonotic source of the virus and the route of introduction to the human population". There was no mention of the word "investigation" or the timescale.



2017

Tedros causes outrage by appointing Robert Mugabe, the tyrannical Zimbabwean president, a WHO goodwill ambassador. Sources say the appointment was encouraged by China, which was a close ally of Mugabe, having helped to fund his guerrilla war in Zimbabwe before he took power and ploughed cash into his sanctions-hit regime. After an outcry, the appointment is rescinded



January

China trie
by menaci
media and
amplifies
virus is pa
advises ag
hotspots,
but harm

There are those such as Jamie Metzl, a former member of the Clinton administration and an adviser to the WHO, who believe Tedros's hands were tied from the beginning by the resolution. He says it had strong backing from China because it authorised "a Chinese-controlled joint study into a single-origin hypothesis, namely, that of zoonosis in the wild, and that is what I call the original sin, because there was

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022777
MORENS_NIH_043781
REL0000479305

a broad public perception that there was a WHO-led investigation, and there was no investigation that was ever authorised".

However, the wording did not say this specifically, and it was left to Tedros and his team to draw up the terms of the inquiry with the Chinese authorities between May and July, which they did without seeking the opinions of the member states. The two sides took the decision to jointly interpret the loose wording — referring to "scientific and collaborative field missions" — as a mandate for a "study" rather than a proper independent investigation.

"It was never an investigation. Investigations are something different," said the WHO source with knowledge of the negotiations. "With a study it's not that you go and look for some wrongdoing ... You're not looking backwards trying really to do a forensic audit of things and say, 'Give me everything; show me everything.' It doesn't work like that."

In July, Peter Ben Embarek, a WHO expert on infections that jump from animals to people, spent three weeks in China with a colleague horse-trading over the terms of reference of the "study". Two weeks were spent in quarantine in a gloomy hotel on the outskirts of Beijing, and their requests to interview Chinese researchers on Zoom were largely rebuffed. "It was a real struggle to get this going while they were on the ground and really depressing," said the WHO source.

WHO insiders say Beijing held the trump card in the negotiations as it could always simply refuse to allow any of the scientific team to enter the country. That is why Tedros was averse to criticising the country's leadership publicly, the insiders claim in his defence.

Behind closed doors the health agency ruled out any work on a matter that might make Beijing jumpy: the question of a possible laboratory leak. The study would concentrate on the zoonotic source of the virus, which the WHO argued was its narrow remit from the original WHA resolution.

But the resolution was clearly wider than the health agency's interpretation. Even a virus that had leaked from the lab would have had a zoonotic origin before, for example, it was taken back to Wuhan by researchers. The crucial point was the second part of the resolution, which clearly states that the director-general was charged with finding out how such an animal virus would be then transmitted to humans.

The terms of reference were finalised between the WHO and China on August 2 last year. Yet, according

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022778
MORENS_NIH_043782
REL0000479305

to the US government, they were not shared with the other countries until the beginning of November.

That was when Garrett Grigsby, the US representative on the WHO executive board, immediately raised objections that the terms were "not negotiated in a transparent way with all WHO member states" and appeared to be "inconsistent" with the mandate. The complaints were ignored.

When asked why other nations had not been consulted about the terms, a WHO spokesman said: "In general, terms of reference for in-country scientific studies are not discussed by member states."

By then the team of scientists had already been selected for the study. The health agency had deliberately chosen zoonotic experts rather than scientists who might be qualified to examine laboratory leaks. The team consisted of 34 scientists, and the agreement reached with Beijing was that it would include 17 members from China, who would mostly be employed by the Chinese state.

The team turned out to contain a majority of Chinese nationals because the health agency chose Li Jian — one of its technical officers, who is from China — among its 17. Gostin says allowing so many Chinese scientists to be part of the WHO team "undermined the credibility and objectivity" of the inquiry.

Furthermore, China was given a veto over the choice of the non-Chinese experts. When the US put forward three scientists, including a laboratory expert, they were all rejected by the WHO without even a phone call. The only US representative chosen by the WHO was Peter Daszak, a New Yorker originally from Dukinfield, near Manchester.

Daszak was a controversial choice. He had been working with the Wuhan Institute of Virology on hunting down coronaviruses for more than 15 years and he headed the EcoHealth Alliance charity, which had redirected large grants from the US government to the Wuhan lab to fund some of its controversial coronavirus work.

The institute's lead virologist, Shi Zhengli — nicknamed "Bat Woman" — described Daszak as her "collaborator" in an email to this newspaper that summer. However, the health agency regarded this conflict of interest as an irrelevance because it had already ruled out the possibility that the team would follow any lines of inquiry into the Wuhan institute.

A capable communicator, Daszak had already been vocal with his view that the virus first infected

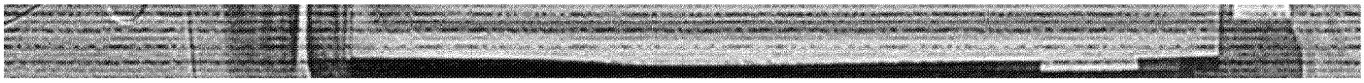
MORENS_SUBPOENA_022779
MORENS_NIH_043783
REL0000479305

humans directly from an animal — possibly in one of China's crammed live markets. He had even secretly orchestrated a statement rejecting the "conspiracy" theory that the virus did not have a natural origin, which was signed by 27 scientists and published by the medical journal The Lancet in February 2020. When his role in organising the letter was revealed this year, Daszak stepped down from a UN-backed Lancet commission that was separately looking into the origins of the virus, and the medical periodical retrospectively published a detailed disclosure document on his work in China.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022780
MORENS_NIH_043784
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022781
MORENS_NIH_043785
REL0000479305



Peter Daszak had been hunting viruses with the Wuhan Institute of Virology for 15 years
ALY SONG/REUTERS

The stakes were high for Daszak when the WHO chose him for the joint mission in late summer 2020. If it was concluded that the virus passed naturally from animals to humans, it would vindicate much of his life's work. However, all that work would be seriously undermined if the pandemic had begun at the laboratory he was so closely associated with.

Metzl, who has been campaigning for a proper investigation of the origins of the virus, believes Daszak's selection was "simply outrageous". He said: "So his entire career is ... in large part based on his collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. So he's the last person who should be on a committee that is examining the possibility of whether experiments that his organisation may have supported played a role in sparking this global pandemic."

Ebright added: "Shameful terms of reference were negotiated between WHO and China. Terms of reference that in essence ended up being the Chinese position without any change. Again it is hard not to see this as a repayment, or as a return on investment on the support the Chinese government provided for [Tedros's] election."

The centrepiece of the first phase of the WHO study was the long-awaited field trip to Wuhan, which finally began on January 14. It had been delayed by the Chinese government for reasons that were opaque: a year had passed since the original outbreak by the time the international scientists were allowed to set foot in the city where the first known Covid-19 cases were recorded.

According to the American magazine Vanity Fair, it was in the weeks before the trip that the US State Department had acquired its explosive — and hotly disputed — intelligence that three researchers from the Wuhan institute had fallen ill.

The researchers were alleged to be connected to the laboratory's "gain of function" experiments on coronaviruses and appeared to have been taken to hospital with Covid-19-type pneumonia symptoms in November 2019. The timing of the cases is significant: this is exactly the time the outbreak is believed to have started and, if the intelligence is true, it would be a smoking gun in favour of the laboratory theory.

It is not clear when this information was conveyed to the WHO, but Tedros surprisingly decided to move

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022782
MORENS_NIH_043786
REL0000479305

the goalposts at about that time. According to WHO sources close to him, he agreed with China that the international team would now be allowed to briefly visit the Wuhan institute — while fully aware that the scientists that had been chosen were not qualified to assess the potential of a laboratory leak.

The Chinese had not acceded to every request by the health agency. They refused entry to a WHO communications officer who would have acted as spokesperson for the joint mission. The result was that the team's most media-savvy communicator, Daszak, became the default spokesman for the group.

While the joint mission was in quarantine in a Wuhan hotel on January 15 this year, the US government publicly released its information about the researchers' illnesses and raised concerns about the experiments that had been carried out at the laboratory on the closest known match to the Covid-19 virus. The US further claimed that the Wuhan institute had been engaged in secret projects with China's military, including laboratory animal experiments, since 2017.

"For more than a year, the Chinese Communist Party has systematically prevented a transparent and thorough investigation of the Covid-19 pandemic's origin, choosing instead to devote enormous resources to deceit and disinformation," said the statement by the US State Department. "Nearly two million people have died. Their families deserve to know the truth."

Joe Biden was due to be inaugurated as president in five days, and there was no sign that he would deviate from this hard line. It raised the stakes for the WHO team even higher.

Playing politics

As it was, the team's visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology lasted only a few hours. It was a smoggy day, and Daszak was filming the press pack outside the institute for his regular Twitter update. He would later claim that the joint mission had asked "tough" questions of the director and senior staff. "And the answers we got were consistent with everything that's been put out there," he said.

What actually happened was that the scientists asked a string of questions and appeared to take the answers from senior figures from the Wuhan institute at face value without seeking evidential proof.

Professor Thea Fischer, a Danish virologist who was part of the team, has described how she felt impolite asking direct questions. In an interview for a virology podcast she said the team concluded that it was not obvious that anything untoward had been "going on" but admitted: "This was based on questioning and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022783
MORENS_NIH_043787
REL0000479305

not us coming with swabs or testing, or serology follow-up, or looking into lab logs, because it was not a lab audit."

Before the trip there had been widespread disquiet in scientific circles about why the institute had, on September 12, 2019, taken offline a database that itemised its collection of 22,000 virus samples and sequences. The institute claimed it had taken the database down because it had feared hacking attacks, but it was a notable coincidence that it happened just before the pandemic is thought to have started.

Yet the joint mission team did not even demand access to the database. Daszak later explained that he had told the team there was no need to request the information as his charity had done a lot of work with the institute. "We do basically know what's in those databases," he said. They appear to have accepted his word and moved on.

Even WHO sources acknowledge that the lab visit was cursory. "They walk through the door, they talk to people and they walk out," the source said. "I think they were there for about two hours. And it was better than nothing, but it was close to nothing."

The team toured hospitals, a communicable disease centre, a propaganda museum and the empty Wuhan seafood market. When it finished in early February this year, it decided to conduct a straw poll of all the international and Chinese members on the relative likelihood of four theories on how the virus originated.

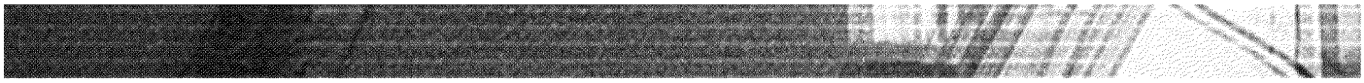
On the ground the Chinese were 17-strong as originally intended but the team were down to 14 as three of their experts were having to keep in contact remotely from outside China.

The ranking of possible theories took place in a Wuhan conference centre on February 8, with the two sets of scientists sitting in rows of chairs facing each other. They were given five options to categorise each theory, in a sliding scale from "very likely" to "likely", "possible", "unlikely" and "extremely unlikely".

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022784
MORENS_NIH_043788
REL0000479305



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022785
MORENS_NIH_043789
REL0000479305



WHO investigators at the Huanan seafood market in January this year
GETTY IMAGES

It is not known how many people favoured each theory, but the results were announced at a press conference in Wuhan on February 9. The favoured theory, which was backed as "likely" to "very likely", was that the virus spread from a bat into another host animal, possibly through intensive farming, and was then passed on to humans.

In a sense this was a leap of faith, as the joint mission had found no evidence of such an intermediary animal or any clues as to how it might have travelled the huge distance to Wuhan. It was just that the scientists believed that this was the way these outbreaks had happened in the past. But then laboratory leaks had happened too.

The decision was perhaps unsurprising, given this was a team that had been specifically picked to concentrate solely on the natural animal causes of the pandemic. In addition, the joint mission's Chinese contingent were under pressure from their government to dismiss any suggestion of culpability.

Therefore the joint mission found the idea that a virus could have leaked from an institution in Wuhan "extremely unlikely" and unworthy of further investigation. Even the theory that the virus might have entered China on frozen food was ranked higher and classed as "possible". The Chinese scientists had been pushing this theory and claimed to have evidence of a small number of cases in which the virus had been reintroduced to China on frozen food packaging.

The implausibility of the theory was later highlighted when the team's more detailed report was released. But the joint mission's "possible" verdict had given the theory a semblance of credibility, which was welcomed in Beijing because it suggested the virus might have originated outside its borders.

Sources close to Tedros say he was taken by surprise when Embarek, the mission's joint leader, dismissed the lab leak theory at the press conference. "That was the first time when we realised back in Geneva that there was an agreement among the totality of terminology that did not feel grounded in science, specifically this relative weighting of hypotheses," said the source.

The WHO insiders admit that the team was not even qualified to make that judgment. They point out that the health agency has a specialist "lab audit team", which, for example, regularly checks Russian and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022786
MORENS_NIH_043790
REL0000479305

American smallpox labs. "And that group had not fed into the choice of the team," the source said. "Nor had any of those people gone [to Wuhan], because we weren't able to negotiate something like that in the terms of reference."

A second WHO source was even more damning. "These guys should have not gone into the labs at all. They had not been given proper access to these labs. They didn't have expertise. They didn't have a mandate," they said. "And then they came out with this 'extremely unlikely' thing. We were all surprised. I was listening and I had no idea why they would say that. I think it was a little bit naive, honestly."

Last week, Emabarek gave an extraordinary interview for a Danish television documentary in which he disclosed that the joint mission had been forced to rule out a lab leak because of pressure from Beijing. He said the final report had been vetted by the Chinese government employees and the team were only allowed to mention the theory if they agreed that they would not pursue it further.

Embarek said it was possible that a laboratory employee may have been infected while collecting samples from bats in the wild. "We consider that hypothesis a likely one," he added. This was not what the team had told the world.

It is still not clear why Tedros organised for the team to visit the laboratory in his last-minute negotiations. But the director-general was under pressure after the joint mission's press conference in February. He was only too aware the new US president held more sway among America's international allies than Trump. While Biden had reversed his predecessor's decision to stop funding the health agency, he was not backing down on the confrontation with China over the origin investigation.

With the WHO's credibility on the line, Tedros decided to take a diplomatic approach to the joint mission's findings. He called a press conference to praise the team for its work while making clear that "all hypotheses remain open and require further analysis and studies".

When the joint mission produced its report in March, it was clear that there had been a lack of rigour in the team's reasoning for ruling out the Wuhan laboratory as a possible source.
It made two main arguments. The first was that there "was no record of viruses closely related to Sars-CoV-2 in any laboratory before December 2019". Yet it had not been given access to the Wuhan institute's virus database. Second, it observed that staff at the institute had claimed nobody at the lab had been ill with respiratory symptoms. But the WHO joint mission had not been given access to research

staff or their personnel records.

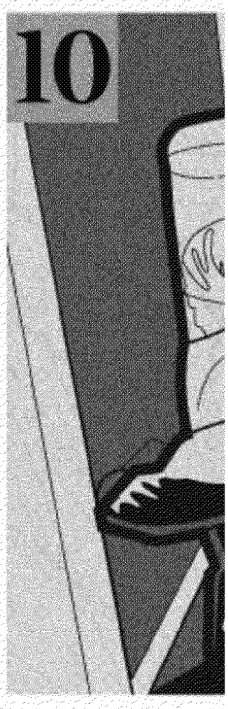
The report prompted a further joint statement by the US and 13 allies, including Britain, Australia and Japan, which expressed concerns about its findings and alleged the scientists' work had been hampered by significant delays and "lacked access to complete, original data and samples".

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022788
MORENS_NIH_043792
REL0000479305



August–November 2020

China is given a veto over the make-up of the inquiry team, which ends up with more Chinese than non-Chinese scientists and is made up of experts qualified to examine the animal-to-human transmission and frozen meat theories rather than those trained to do lab audits. The zoologist Peter Daszak, who has a close relationship with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is one of them



January

As the W
US disclos
institute h
symptoms
concerns
coronaviru
says it was
China den
researche

The bigger picture was that the WHO study was in disarray. Whether by design or opportunism, China had triumphed. Beijing had never wanted an investigation of the origin of the virus and had used all its considerable influence at the WHO to make sure it was watered down.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022789
MORENS_NIH_043793
REL0000479305

"This outbreak was serious enough to potentially damage China's image, its legitimacy, its interests, its ambitions and the image it was trying to project internationally," said Fidler, the former lawyer for the health agency. "So that political dynamic led China to control and decide the way in which these investigations were going to happen. And that's made nobody outside China happy."

In late May Biden ordered the CIA to redouble its efforts to investigate how the outbreak started, "including whether it emerged from human contact with an infected animal or from a laboratory accident". When it reports in a few weeks' time, more may be revealed about the reliability or otherwise of the intelligence on the Wuhan institute.

But China was ready to pull up the drawbridge. When, on July 22, the WHO proposed a new phase two of the investigation, which would include an audit of the Wuhan labs, it was quickly rejected by China. The country's top health officials held a press conference in Beijing to say the results of the joint team's work should be accepted and the next phase should look at whether the pandemic had begun in a country outside China.

It means that unless China can be somehow compelled to open itself up to more thorough investigation, which appears unlikely, the world may never get to the bottom of what caused the great pandemic of the 21st century, which has killed four million people and counting.

In preparing this article, we asked to interview the health agency's staff who were part of the investigation as well as Tedros. The WHO press office declined our request. Margaret Chan did not respond to a request for comment.

A WHO spokesperson said this newspaper's article rehashed old events and contained "falsehoods and baseless claims". The agency argues that the director general treats China like any other country as a matter of principle.

"WHO's top priority is ending the acute stage of the Covid-19 pandemic and we are supporting countries to implement comprehensive, evidence based responses, based on the consistent use of public health measures and the equitable use of life-saving tools including vaccines," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, Tedros is likely to stand for re-election when his term ends next year and, if he does, will no doubt again seek backing from China.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022790
MORENS_NIH_043794
REL0000479305

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Subject: RE: Sunday Wash Post editorial

Yes, the shit never ends, it seems. Do you know him well enough to email him and say "wat's up here?"

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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: RE: Sunday Wash Post editorial

I don't buy the argument that he simply didn't say anything new. He knowingly gave space for the lab leakers to latch on to the 'field scientist' idea, which is never disprovable of course, but exactly as unlikely as any other lab pathway because 1) they wore PPE, 2) they tested all the samples and none had SARS-CoV-2, and 3) the bat-farmed wildlife-Huanan market is far more likely.

He shouldn't have said what he said to the press, and absolutely knew it would lead to this sort of crap in the US. I think it helps him and WHO look tougher on the lab leak stuff, and helps remove some political heat in the long run.

Very irritating considering the papers are linking and EcoHealth into all this as usual - it's just too easy for them. Sunday Times did another piece today and it's let to more vitriol on social media directly straight at EHA and me.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Robert Kessler
b6 >
Subject: Sunday Wash Post editorial

Touting Embarek's supposed recantating. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022793
MORENS_NIH_043797
REL0000479305

Date:	Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:11:44 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:11:40 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6 ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

Peter:

I have no expertise in this area, but if you know of experts who might be able to speak convincingly please let us know. Perhaps, we can persuade them to get involved.

Is there anyone who can state definitively that there was no gain-of-function research underway at the Wuhan Institute. I know this is something that drives Ebright and others to try and shut down research.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
Subject: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021112
MORENS_NIH_041956
REL0000479309

Any and all ideas are welcome – ASTMH, NAM, NASEM, others?

Jerry – what about reaching out to Benjamin Corb and others?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 ; Peter Daszak b6
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] <b6
To: David Morens b6



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021113
MORENS_NIH_041957
REL0000479309

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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] b6
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] b6
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021114
MORENS_NIH_041958
REL0000479309

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] [b6] >
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens,

Thanks for sending. I'll write back to this reporter and ask her to send a fresh request to the press office once the WHO report is available – we can at that time better assess whether it makes sense for you or another NIAID expert to speak with the media about it.

Best,
Hillary

Hillary Hoffman, Ph.D., Writer/Editor
Office of Communications and Government Relations, NIAID, NIH
5601 Fishers Lane #6G38
Rockville, MD 20852
b6

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Mariana Lenharo [b6] >
> **Date:** March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
> **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
> **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. [b6] | [b6]

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
> b6 ssistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> b6 b6 b6
> b6
>
> Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**
>
> 
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo b6
> **Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:18 AM
> **To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> **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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021116
MORENS_NIH_041960
REL0000479309

Mariana

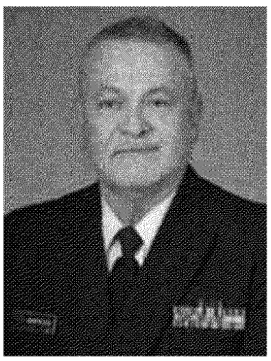
On Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 1:07 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 wrote:

I will be at b6 b6 b6 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
- b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Mariana Lenharo b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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 b6 b6 b6

Thank you very much!

Best,

Mariana

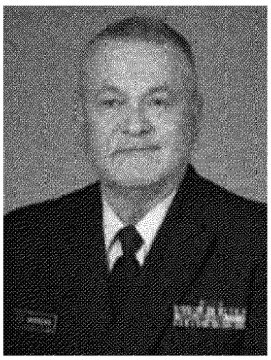
On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 3:04 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <dmorens@niaid.nih.gov> wrote:

> Mariana, it looks like I have tomorrow from about 1215 to 130
>
> Late Thu might work after 4 or 5, not sure when earlier meeting will be done.
>
> Friday looks good except about 1 to about 4

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Mariana Lenharo b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021118
MORENS_NIH_041962
REL0000479309

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.

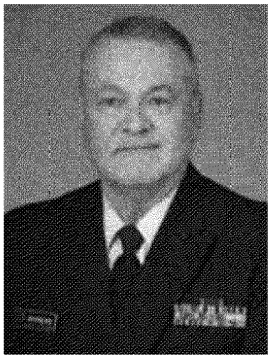
Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Science and Health Journalist
T. b6
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 1:03 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6 wrote:

> Hi Mariana,
>
> Our media office indicated you would like to speak to me at some point this week. Let me know when. I am always busy and moving between various offices and meetings, bu5t I do have spaces of free time here and there. In general, mid afternoons, eg, from 130 until 330 or later, are not good….
>
> TY
>
> 
>
> David 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
> b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> b6
>
> Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Mariana Lenharo [b6]
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. [b6]
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 25 Oct 2021 3:55:57 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 25 Oct 2021 3:55:55 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

A few thoughts as I read this, which I will insert in red below. gtk

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:32 AM
To: David Morens [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: RE: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Re. the timeline – that's shown in the system records, and in emails to Erik Stemmy. WIV has confirmed to us that this was the same experiment, so it was absolutely, prove-ably reported to NIH on time in our year 4 report. Erik did nothing wrong – it probably did not rise to the level that any secondary review was necessary – as we explain in the main letter to Michael lauer. The highlighted section is a clear 'out' for NIH re. why they should have interpreted the results as non-problematic or not:

From our upcoming letter to Michael Lauer
Secondly, the direction in our revised NoA was that we should report experiments in which "*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*". In virological terms, "virus growth" normally refers to viral titer measuring the concentration of infectious viruses by plaque assay. The experiment we reported to NIH, performed one time using x mice per group, actually shows genome copies per gram *not* viral titer. We have been advised by (I would say 'highly experienced,' not senior) senior virologists that data on genome copies per gram usually do not accurately equate to viral titer, since genomic material from inactivated, incompletely formed, or dead virus are also measured. Viral titers were not conducted in this experiment. We also note that the genome copy data for SHC014 are only enhanced relative to the WIV1 backbone at the earliest part of the experiment, and considerable variability within the groups. with often (I'm not quite large error bars. Importantly, by Day 6-8, there was no discernably significant difference among the genome copy per gram data, suggesting that these differences, if in fact real and reproducible, were transient and viral genome copy data were statistically equal among viral types by the end of this short experiment. Given the small number of mice, it is also uncertain if the survival and weight loss data were statistically relevant. We believed NIH read the data the same way because we received no feedback at all or any request to provide further clarification or that a secondary review should be undertaken. In any event, as already noted above, this experiment was not repeated. [Delete the following] All this suggests that the rationale NIH appears to have used at the time for *not* highlighting this work as requiring further clarification or secondary review, was appropriate, and may explain the lack of request for further information from NIH to us.

Re. the system shutting us out –(I'm not exactly clear what this means. I would revise this portion. Ignorance of process by a first time renewal grant is no excuse. You have to submit a final report even if your grant isn't renewed. I think you should apologize first and then provide a rationale. Part of that was the fact that you had scored in the 2nd or 3rd percentile and the work was going forward so you presumed the next report was at the end of year 1 of the renewal grant. You can mention you asked NIH Grants management about it, didn't hear back, and were focused on gearing up for the new set of specific aims. it was my first renewal and we were unclear of what to do, but we asked an NIH Grants management specialist (Tseday Girma) on 7/30/19 what the deadline was on submitting the year 5 report, and if we could now go ahead. We received no response from that person. Erik was cc'd on this but surely it's up to the Grants Management Specialist to get back to us. The next correspondence I received about our grant was then the notice to remove WIV and then a few days later, to terminate.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017210
MORENS_NIH_035401
REL0000479319

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:36 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Peter, i will be meeting with Tony about this later on

Does Stemmy know about this new timeline and will he back you up, including the problem with being shut out of the electronic report system? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 25, 2021, at 06:37, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Yes – I think you're right. I'm trying to walk the line in this letter between clearly stating that EcoHealth didn't breach reporting requirements, and not causing any damage to NIH, but I do have to respond if they're going to be out there with comments to the press like Francis who is quoted in the Washington Post as saying there'll be consequences for us for 'messing up':

The grant to EcoHealth has been suspended, Collins said Thursday.
"They messed up here. There's going to be some consequences for EcoHealth," he said. But he also said that, had the experimental result been reported earlier, "it would not have been a reason to sort of hit the panic button and say my god this is dangerous stuff."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/10/21/nih- ecohealth-alliance-coronavirus/

I get it that the consequences may not amount to much, but if the public is being told we did risky research and didn't monitor it well, they'll not support us if NIH cancels all our funding.

Please tell Francis, Tony, Dr. Tabak and all that my whole family is being affected when they read comments like this in the press. The toll is awful, and the language they are using is just not fair. We're a $10 million a year non-profit – they represent NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Guys, i will try to weigh in later today as i will be fully swamped until then

Peter, from Tony's numerous recent comments to me, and from what Francis has been vocal about over the past 5 days, they are trying to protect you, which also protects their own reputations

I hate to be too optimistic but maybe the tide is turning? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Oct 24, 2021, at 23:56, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:
>
> Hi Jerry and David,
>
> I know it's expecting a lot, but I'm trying to rapidly respond to Michael Lauer's letter demanding IACUCs and all unpublished data, as well as to Tabak's public statement that EcoHealth failed to comply with reporting restrictions.
>
> Please have a look through this letter, and use track changes or comment boxes to suggest where the language needs to be stronger or more wimpy. I'm trying to walk the line between clearly refuting the allegations, and not throwing NIAID program staff under the bus.
>
> I'm hoping to submit this either Monday evening or Tuesday, ahead of the deadline, so we can remove ourselves from the press attacks quickly, and tell people publicly that we complied with reporting requirements.
>
> David – I'll send some bullets for you to pass on to Tony later on.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017212
MORENS_NIH_035403
REL0000479319

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:02:45 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:43 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
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 b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak
b6 >, Aleksei Chmura
[redacted] >, David Morens b6 >,
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Rich Roberts b6

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce5813ec49b1c48abdbf108db8b9e2a5d%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=7LNyRewPkCFWzOikPpJpeOf4FC%2Buj4%2BvemUjVLX9yI0%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce5813ec49b1c48abdbf108db8b9e2a5d%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=nuyPls4%2Fu33qgfWJ2AfEPe%2BTRUqbv5pG9C4Hqz%2FtHd4%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

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, 5 May 2022 5:35:09 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 5 May 2022 5:35:03 PM -0400
Subject: comments?
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6 b6 Aleksei Chmura b6

Jerry et al:

At least Marcia is engaged. Let's come up with a plan to pursue this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: McNutt, Marcia K. b6
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 4:38 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: Did you see this?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

I have seen over the years many campaigns to try to get support for science. Some have failed, some have been successful.

The ones that failed were organized by research organizations, scientific societies, and scientists. They failed because the suggested to the intended audience that scientists were just another special interest group, pleading their own case for legitimacy and respect.

The ones that succeeded were organized by industry, the military, federal, state, and local leaders. They succeeded because these groups could articulate the benefits to the economy and to societal well being from science. No one viewed this as a special interest maneuver.

Do you have different experiences?

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
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
b6 b6 (office) | b6 b6 (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On May 5, 2022, at 1:14 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009102
MORENS_NIH_019453
REL0000479324

Marcia:

I was not thinking of taking on this fringe group, precisely because of the "megaphone" effect. I was thinking of some much more general campaign throughout the US academic community to support science. I don't yet have a specific plan, but a strong statement from University Presidents, heads of scientific societies, Nobel Laureates etc. and a campaign to enlist ALL scientists to sign on might attract a lot of signatures and some good publicity. At the moment my thoughts are still forming, but I am becoming increasingly alarmed by the attacks and the lack of a clear response from our colleagues.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: McNutt, Marcia K. b6
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 3:59 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6
Subject: Re: Did you see this?

EXTERNAL SENDER

The NAS is very involved in defending science. I'm just not sure what you want the NAS to do. If we take on White Coat Waste head on, we effectively give them a bigger megaphone for their views. $350M organizations don't come out ahead when they call out $1M organizations.

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
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
b6 b6 (office) | b6 b6 (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

> On May 5, 2022, at 12:44 PM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:
>
> Marcia:
>
> Do I take your response to indicate that you don't think the NAS would get involved in helping to defend science?
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: b6 b6
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email: b6

From: McNutt, Marcia K. [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <[b6]
Subject: Re: Did you see this?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

The NASEM does have a number of reports on the use of animals in research already. I am not sure that what the White Coat Waste group is doing is actually illegal, and they seem to be a small player relative to PETA.

Honestly, I find it entirely two-faced that this group would enlist Republican congressmen to support animal welfare in research, when those same legislators are pushing for round ups of wild horses using helicopters so that ranchers can run more head of beef. At least laboratory animals are treated with anesthetic and their use is serving a purpose to advance human health. The same cannot be said for the wild horse roundups.

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
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
[b6] [b6] (office) | [b6] [b6] (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On May 5, 2022, at 8:48 AM, Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:

Marcia:

I don't know if you have seen this, but I am sure you are aware of the general problem.

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

It is illustrative of a very disturbing trend of constant attacks on science by a lot of Republicans in Congress. I have been following closely the attacks on Peter Daszak at EcoHealth Alliance. I organized the initial support for him from US Nobel Laureate scientists. Things are just getting worse and I think it is high time we organized our scientific colleagues to counter this egregious behaviour. I was very disappointed that Victor Dzau didn't challenge the Republican efforts to ask the NAM to investigate Peter Daszak.

I welcome your thoughts on whether you feel this is something the National Academies should get involved in. I feel our very future is at stake here.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009104
MORENS_NIH_019455
REL000479324

From: McNutt, Marcia K. <b6
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 4:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: Nobel Appeal on Ukraine

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks, Rich. I'm seeing if our International Secretary has the capacity to send this out.
COVID Advisory: I am more likely to be in CA (Pacific time) than DC (Eastern time)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
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
b6 b6 (office) | b6 b6 (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On Mar 1, 2022, at 1:06 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Dear Marcia:

We have just launched a Nobel appeal for Peace between Russia and Ukraine. The text is attached. As of this writing we have 159 Nobel Laureates signed up, but a current list that will be regularly updated is available at https://nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html

It would be greatly appreciated if you could advertise this as widely as possible. We are especially keen to make sure it reaches scientists in Russia, Ukraine and around the world. We also hope that China will take the message to heart and not try to ameliorate the sanctions that have been imposed on Russia.

Thanks for any help you can provide.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

<Appeal b6 Nobel Laureates.docx>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009105
MORENS_NIH_019456
REL0000479324

Date: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 8:27:44 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 8:25:21 PM -0400
Subject: RE:
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Didn't know they'd have him on - how disappointing. All it takes is a small group of scientists willing to speak to the press on the other side, and it just becomes a he said/she said issue - sensible believability on each side, to the public. Haven't seen it, but hope he didn't ruin it!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject:

Watching you on pbs newshour plus that insufferable Relman twit. Hmm.....
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sat, 8 May 2021 5:14:03 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 8 May 2021 5:10:48 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

Hi David – answers/comments in the body of your email below…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 Roberts, Ric b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014628
MORENS_NIH_029394
REL0000479328

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014629
MORENS_NIH_029395
REL0000479328

> 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
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +[b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]oberts, Rich <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
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 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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <c b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014631
MORENS_NIH_029397
REL0000479328

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich <b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6 Robert Kessler <b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6 >
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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:01 AM
To: David Morens b6; Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; Robert Kessler b6
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

The letter to Blinken includes the following statement:

"…the release of these documents from the Department could help to refute contradictory statements that have been made regarding the possibility of a laboratory leak from the WIV." This could be taken in a positive sense, that the documents will refute the lab release hypothesis, although I don't think that's how they mean it.

Regarding what Peter previously said about Shi's use of the phrase blah blah, which will surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

"In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use "blah, blah" as equivalent to the Chinese term "deng, deng" which means "and so forth" and has no negative connotation."

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014633
MORENS_NIH_029399
REL0000479328

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura < [b6] ; Robert Kessler < [b6]
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 [b6] 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; 'Roberts, Rich' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6 'Robert Kessler (b6 >
Subject: New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
Importance: High

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others

authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 4:00:20 PM -0500

Sent: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 3:58:48 PM -0500

Subject: RE: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

From: Peter Dasza[b6]

To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Attachments: Scientific papers on COVID origins since the WHO trip.docx

---

I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.

I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of doing science.

The truth of all of this is that there is no real debate over the origins. A lab leak is a possible scenario, but extremely unlikely based on the zero evidence put forward by anyone. On the other hand, we now have 11 peer-reviewed or under-review papers (and counting) that point towards the natural origins. I've listed them out in the attached doc, as well as the lab leak papers I could find (all of which are opinion pieces of non-peer-reviewed).

The real debate is purely political - Republicans using this as a way to target NIH and just regurgitating fact-free innuendo-filled conspiracies with EcoHealth's work at the center. Richard Ebright, I hear, is working with Rand Paul and others to feed them these half-baked ideas and make them sound science-y enough to convince the public.

I can hear the villagers sharpening their pitchforks....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

-----Original Message-----
From: [b6] [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Bloom, Barry R [b6]; Michael Imperiale [b6]; Silja VÖneky [b6] freiburg.de>; mooc demic [b6] Nick Evans [b6]; Michael Osterholm [b6] Lone Simonsen [b6]; Edward Hammond [b6]; David N. Fisman [b6]; Arturo Casadevall [b6]; Amir Attaran [b6]; Alison Galvani [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Peter Hale [b6]; Lipsitch, Marc [b6]; David Relman [b6]; [b6] Richard H. Ebright [b6] >
Cc: Laura H. Kahn [b6] >
Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015758
MORENS_NIH_033457
REL0000479329

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 b6 or to me at b6 with your name and current affiliation.

Thank you in advance.

RHE

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Sun, 30 Oct 2022 6:17:21 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 30 Oct 2022 6:17:10 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" b6
To:	David Morens b6 >;
CC:	Gerald Keusch b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I'm not unfortunately, I've been invited to keynote at Kidney Week in Orlando FL of all things this week

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

> On Oct 30, 2022, at 5:15 PM, David Morens b6 > wrote:
>
> Amen, thanks! Are you here at the ASTMH meeting? d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Oct 30, 2022, at 14:07, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 > wrote:

My take:

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1586722053167714304?s=46&t=4XkfQxcGoMQM6ya6lHG-mQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Oct 30, 2022, at 10:37 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >
Date: October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
To: David Morens b6 >
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

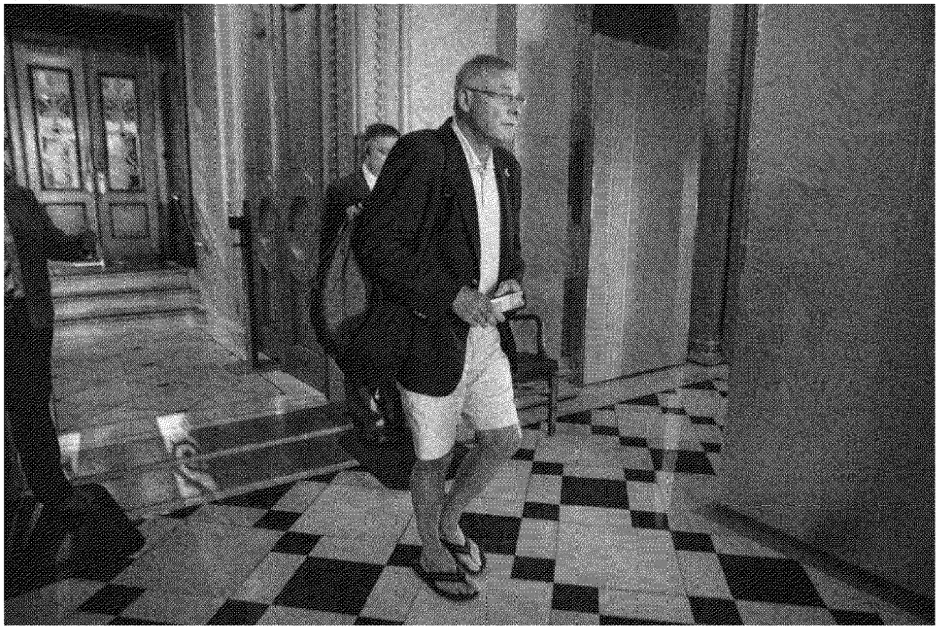
MORENS_SUBPOENA_002091
MORENS_NIH_008549
REL0000479330

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >
Date: October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]
Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002092
MORENS_NIH_008550
REL0000479330

Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report:

And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002093
MORENS_NIH_008551
REL0000479330

been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002094
MORENS_NIH_008552
REL0000479330

laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section?Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002095
MORENS_NIH_008553
REL0000479330

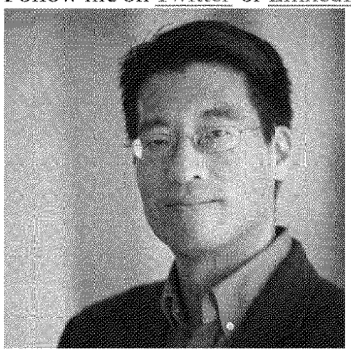
all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Wed, 26 May 2021 3:31:53 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 26 May 2021 3:31:51 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Please ask Jeff.

Do you know who is on the review committee? Is that a standing NIH committee for extramural research? Should I call my buddy Matt Lauer?

Thanks for helping to prep me. My goal in talking to the reporter (highly recommended by Nahid, whose judgement I totally trust) is to lower the heat, and to the extent I am able to turn up the light.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Fwd: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

Jerry, I think Petewr can answer no. 1.

regarding no.2, I don't know specifically, and I am not sure anyone else does either, although it could be founbd out. the GOF rules are so onerous that no one even bothers to try anymore (except Ralph it seems). But only two would not surprise me. The other part of this is that we seem to have strict criteria for what is GOF, and alot of GOF things (by a looser definition) are still being done, sort of with a wink it seems to me. I can ask Jeff Taubenberger, if you wish. He is much more on top of this as he was affected it by it in his research programs.

d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 18:37:31 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
To: David Morens b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015634
MORENS_NIH_033303
REL0000479337

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
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Peter Daszak (b6
b6 ; Rich Roberts (b6
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

I am going to talk to a reporter from Mother Jones tomorrow, who is well known to my colleague Nahid Bhadelia and who put the reporter in touch with me.
Two things that you may know something about.

First, primarily for Peter (amplified by David if you have any insights), is there any reliable information you know of about the 3 sick WIV staff who were hospitalized in November? This is now the point of the spear alleging the lab was the source – not just an asymptomatic infected individual but full blown disease.

Second, primarily for David, I see comments that since the NIH created the review process for certain genetic research on pathogenic microorganisms, there have been just two grants referred by

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015635
MORENS_NIH_033304
REL0000479337

evaluation through the mechanism to block GOF research that could be too dangerous to do and the expected information yield was not sufficient to grant an exception. Is that right? Just two? There have to have been a hell of a lot more grants proposing to study the role of a variety of genes and virus properties on virulence and pathogenesis, and just two (probably Ralph Baric grants) were of sufficient concern to even activate the review process?

On the UK request I replied simply "Decline".

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak ([b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- [b6] assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- [b6] [b6] [b6]
- [b6]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:09 PM
Subject: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

1 hour ago - World

Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins



Zachary Basu

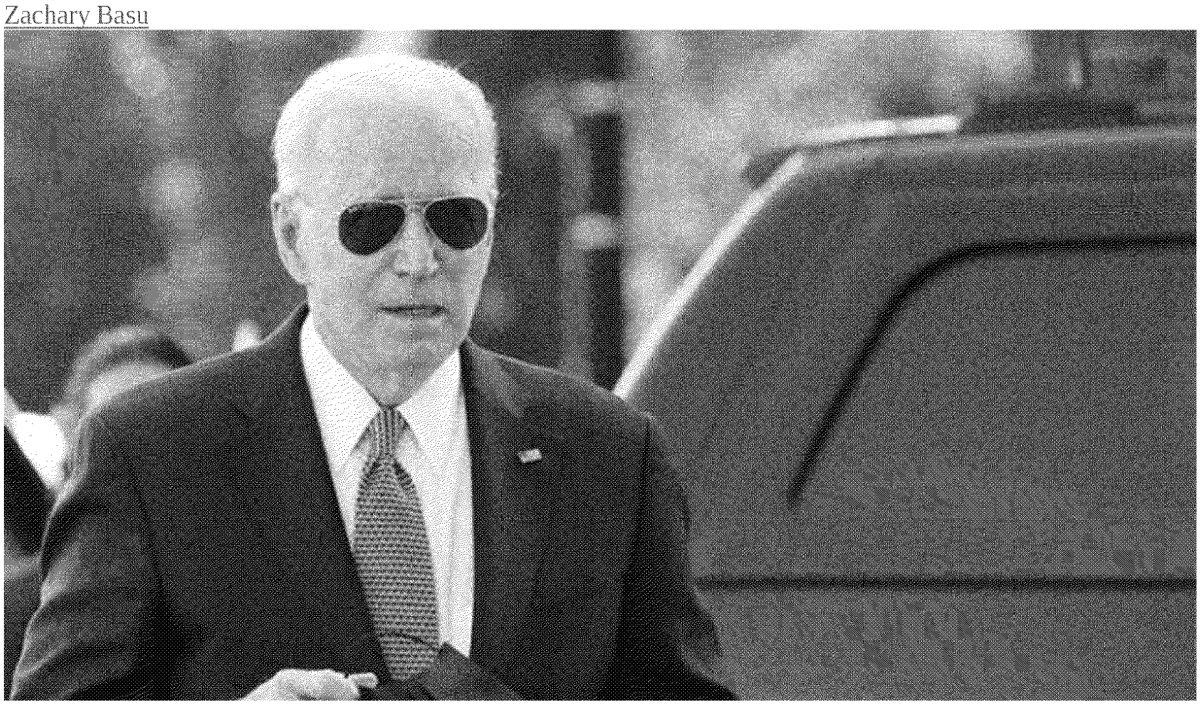


Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Biden announced Wednesday he has asked the U.S. intelligence community to "redouble their efforts" to investigate the origins of the coronavirus and provide a report within 90 days that "could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion."

Why it matters: The debate over the origins of COVID-19 has been reinvigorated in recent days by previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, that three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill enough to be hospitalized in November 2019.

The state of play: Biden said in a statement that the U.S. intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios" for the origins of the virus — one, that it emerged from human contact with an infected and animal, and two, that it was the result of an accidental laboratory leak.

- A joint team from the World Health Organization and China issued an inconclusive report in March that described the so-called lab-leak theory as "extremely unlikely."
- But the report has been criticized by the U.S. and WHO leadership for its methodology and lack of transparency from the Chinese government, and top U.S. officials have called for a new investigation.

What they're saying: Biden said the U.S. intelligence community's current position is that "while two elements in the IC leans toward the former scenario and one leans more toward the latter – each with low or moderate confidence – the majority of elements do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other."

- "I have now asked the Intelligence Community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Biden said in a statement.
- "As part of that report, I have asked for areas of further inquiry that may be required, including specific questions for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015637
MORENS_NIH_033306
REL0000479337

China. I have also asked that this effort include work by our National Labs and other agencies of our government to augment the Intelligence Community's efforts. And I have asked the Intelligence Community to keep Congress fully apprised of its work."

Our thought bubble: Whether COVID-19 ultimately originated in an animal or in a lab, the bulk of the evidence is in China, which limits what the U.S. can find out. But Biden's statement underscores the fact that this debate will not end any time soon, and that the U.S. could ramp up pressure on China to cooperate.

Go deeper: The COVID lab-leak theory goes mainstream

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 8:54:55 AM -0500
Sent:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 8:54:43 AM -0500
Subject:	RE: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC:	David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Peter:

Sorry you have to continue with this witch hunt. Almost like being in Salem!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

Executive Assistant b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 2:01 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to let you all know that, as predicted, we've received our first exhaustive request for documents, information and testimony. 41 questions from the House Energy & Commerce Committee Republicans. Many of them have already been answered over and over again, and many of the documents have been repeatedly FoIA'd, but of course, this isn't about getting to the truth about anything – it's about creating a 'show' for the hard right voters to watch EcoHealth squirm.

They wrote to us by email and simultaneously made the letter public of course. They've also written to NIH asking them 47 questions all about EcoHealth's terrible behavior. David – they're after your emails too…Here's the link, and I've attached the letters to us and NIH to save you the downloading time…

https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chairs- rodgers-griffith-and-guthrie-launch-e-and-c-s-118th-congress-covid-19-

origins-investigation

Most outrageously, in their preamble they comment that our work in China funded by NIH provided "no scientific work product produced for the American taxpayers who helped finance these efforts, and no useful information to support pandemic preparedness efforts."

Actually, in the first 5 years of the R01 funding, we published 18 papers, including 2 in *Nature* and 1 in *Cell*. It was so productive that our renewal proposal was scored within the top 3% of grants.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ,Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
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 b6 g >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchi b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016615
MORENS_NIH_034759
REL0000479341

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016616
MORENS_NIH_034760
REL0000479341

- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Ja b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio <J b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Update

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016617
MORENS_NIH_034761
REL0000479341

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
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
b6 9

Meeting ID: b6
Passcode: b6
One tap mobile
b6 US (New York)
b6 US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Moren b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital

Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:

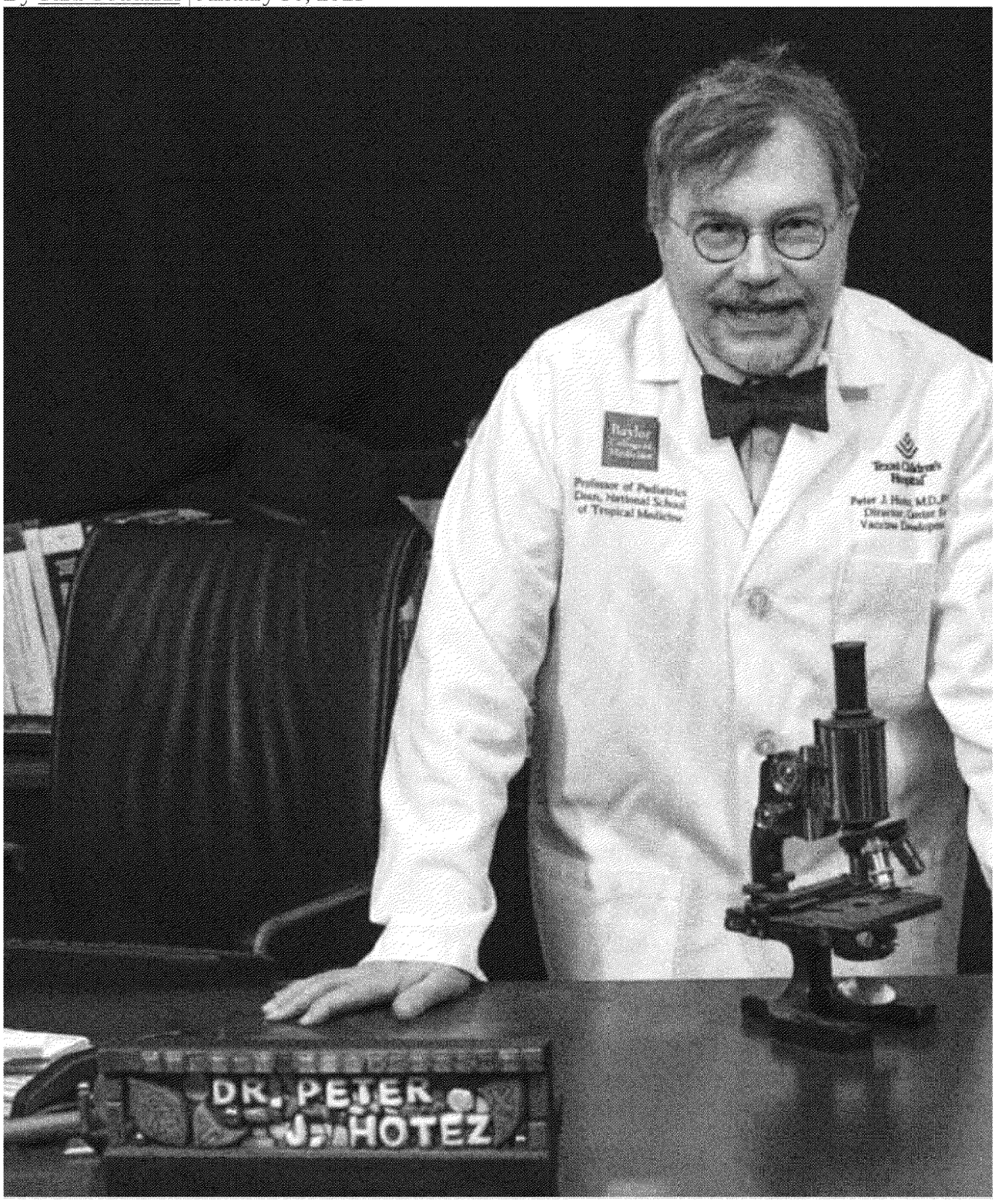
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on

social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016621
MORENS_NIH_034765
REL0000479341

then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016622
MORENS_NIH_034766
REL0000479341

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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016623
MORENS_NIH_034767
REL0000479341

2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this

idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.
To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.
Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.
Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.
Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?
Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.
What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.
Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.
Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?
Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression,

because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.
For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens < b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 Peter Daszak < b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016627
MORENS_NIH_034771
REL0000479341

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens b6 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 <b6> wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016629
MORENS_NIH_034773
REL0000479341

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

Executive Assistant [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
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)…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016631
MORENS_NIH_034775
REL0000479341

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

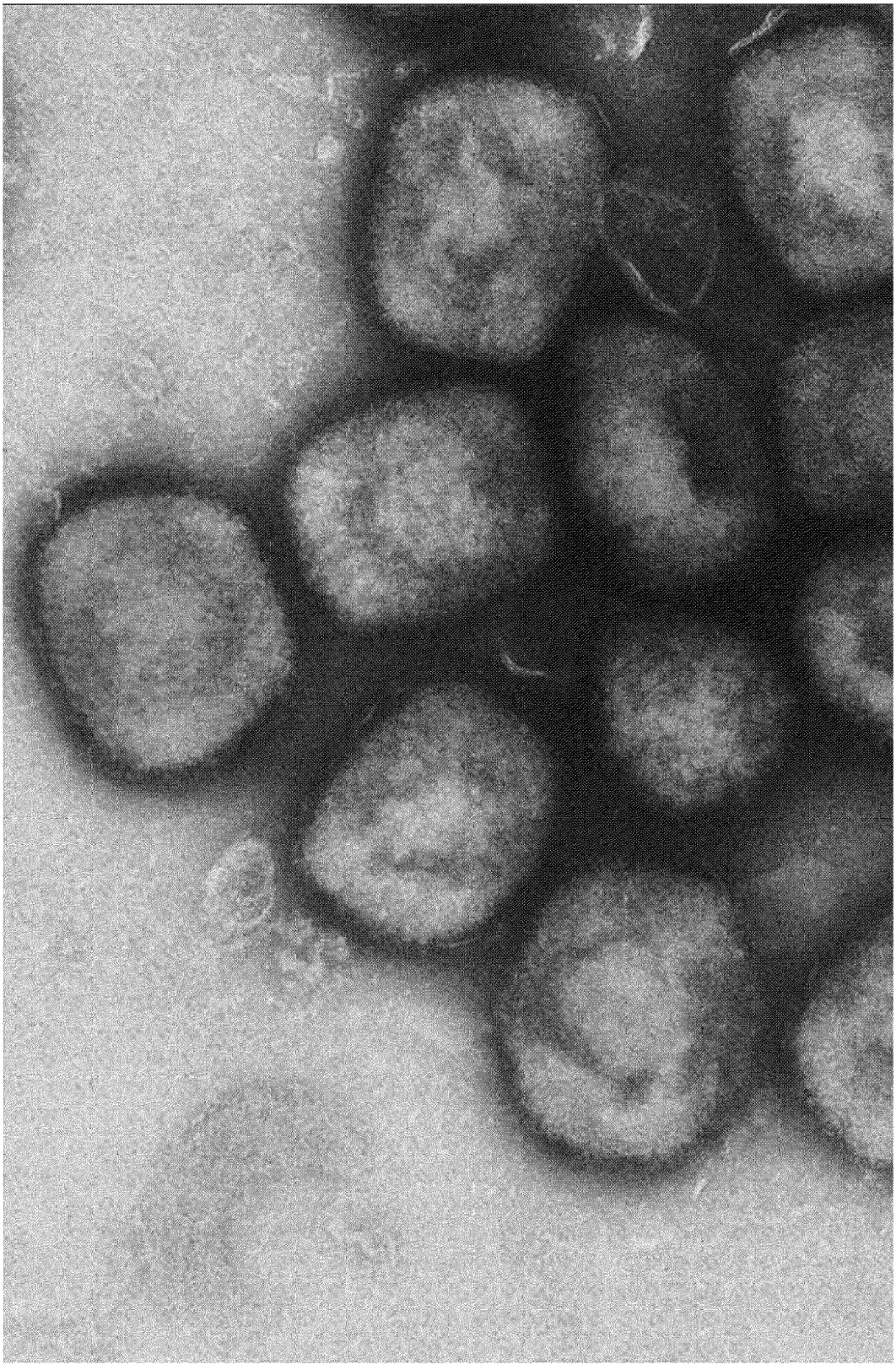
POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016632
MORENS_NIH_034776
REL0000479341



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016633
MORENS_NIH_034777
REL0000479341

attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016634
MORENS_NIH_034778
REL0000479341

lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016635
MORENS_NIH_034779
REL0000479341

go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Rich Roberts b6
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 <hotez@bcm.edu>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016636
MORENS_NIH_034780
REL0000479341

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] >; David Morens [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

[b6]

[b6]

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> 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 <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>
Aleksei Chmura <b6> Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak b6 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 b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Gerald Keusch <b6
>; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack 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 a [b6] from t [b6] - 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 [b6] wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: [b6]
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016641
MORENS_NIH_034785
REL0000479341

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted] Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>; David Morens <[redacted]>; Gerald Keusch <[redacted]>; Rich Roberts <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [redacted]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[redacted] | Phone: [redacted] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[redacted]

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
b6
> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak <
b6
; Aleksei Chmura <
b6
; David Morens <
b6
; Gerald Keusch <
b6
>; Rich Roberts <
b6
>
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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts <roberts[b6]
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



MinerFlux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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 [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016645
MORENS_NIH_034789
REL0000479341

Date:	Tue, 15 Jun 2021 11:30:51 AM -0400
Subject:	FW: Fox News: GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6] <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org >; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Attachments:	image003.gif; image004.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; 2021-06-11 Letter from Five HSGAC Members to Sec. Becerra and Dir. Collins.pdf

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
- [b6] (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- [b6]
- [b6]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:21 AM
Subject: Fox News: GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH

Published 42 mins ago

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020200
MORENS_NIH_040724
REL0000479343

GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH

Group demands unredacted copies of Fauci emails



By **Tyler Olson | Fox News**

A group of Republican senators is demanding a trove of documents on behind-the-scenes deliberation within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) about the origin of the coronavirus and the possibility it escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Sens. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., Rick Scott, R-Fla., Josh Hawley, R-Mo., James Lankford, R-Okla., and Rand Paul., R-Ky., authored the letter asking for the documents. The letter says the "release of approximately 4,000 pages of NIH email communications and other documents from early 2020 has raised serious questions about NIH's handling of COVID-19."

The emails the senators are referring to were released by outlets like the Washington Post and Buzzfeed via Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Among the questions raised by the materials, according to the senators, are how seriously officials, including National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, took the lab leak theory before later dismissing it.

"These documents, though heavily redacted, have shed new light on NIH's awareness of the virus' origins in the early stages of the COVID19 pandemic," the senators said in a letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and NIH Director Francis Collins.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020201
MORENS_NIH_040725
REL0000479343

"It is unclear the extent to which NIH officials, including Dr. Fauci, considered the possibility that the virus originated in a laboratory and what, if any, actions they took to seriously investigate this possibility, " they continued. "It is also unclear why NIAID officials eventually decided to downplay the likelihood that the virus originated in a laboratory and, instead, promote that it originated naturally."

The letter, sent last week but released Monday, notes a handful of highly publicized exchanges, including one email Fauci sent to his deputy, Hugh Auchincloss.

"Hugh: It is essential that we speak this AM. Keep your cell phone on," Fauci wrote in an email with a subject line that referenced gain of function research. This email was among those obtained by Buzzfeed. "Read this paper as well as the email that I will forward you now. You will have tasks today that must be done."

"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," Auchincloss said in an email to Fauci, which was also published by Buzzfeed. "Not sure what that means since Emily is sure that no Coronavirus work has gone through the P3 framework. She will try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad."

Scott said Tuesday that Americans "deserve answers" about the origins of the pandemic that shut down the economy, killed hundreds of thousands and had rippling consequences through society, from increased drug abuse to children falling behind in school due to remote learning.

"The American people deserve the truth and transparency that Senator Scott has been calling for since this pandemic started. We know the Communist Chinese government is responsible for the coronavirus pandemic, and they lied to cover it up with the help of the World Health Organization (WHO)," a spokesperson for Scott said. "It's been over a year since Senator Scott called for a congressional hearing into the WHO and its role in covering up the pandemic. Now, the American people deserve answers about how this pandemic got started and who is responsible. It's time for accountability."

The senators, all members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, are requesting unredacted copies of the recently released FOIA troves from the Washington Post, Buzzfeed

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020202
MORENS_NIH_040726
REL0000479343

and Judicial Watch.



Security personnel gather near the entrance of the Wuhan Institute of Virology during a visit by the World Health Organization team in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan) (AP)

They're also requesting very broadly "[a]ll records" from Fauci, Auchincloss, Collins and several other officials "referring or relating to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, COVID-19, coronavirus, EcoHealth Alliance, or Dr. Baric's 2015 coronavirus study."

HHS did not respond to a request for comment.

The possibility that the coronavirus escaped from a Chinese lab was largely panned last year by the media and experts. But Fox News reported in April 2020 that some in the intelligence community were taking the lab leak possibility seriously. And emerging facts led many, especially Republicans, to put more stock in the theory in recent months.

House and Senate Republicans have pushed the Biden administration to release more information on the possibility that China was at fault for allowing the coronavirus to escape from a lab. This has been done through other document requests, a bill that would force the president to declassify intelligence related to the lab leak theory and more.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki and President Biden have also indicated in recent months that the administration takes the possibility of a lab leak seriously. But the White House has stood behind Fauci even as his recently released emails show he was concerned with the Wuhan Institute of Virology early in the pandemic only to dismiss the lab leak theory later.

Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:14:58 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:14:36 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6>; David Morens b6 Gerald T Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Rich Roberts b6

Here's a new one

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 7, 2022 at 1:32:42 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
Subject: Reporter request for comment

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Dr. Hotez,

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--

Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: [b6] [b6]



Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 1:36:38 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 1:36:07 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to

James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.
None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.
But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.
The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6; David Morens b6 ; Gerald T Keusch <b6; Jeff Sturchio <b6 ; Lotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010511
MORENS_NIH_021032
REL0000479348

USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens < b6 ; Gerald T Keusch [b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <j_ b6
Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak[b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' [b6 >; 'Gerald T Keusch' < b6 ; 'Jeff Sturchio' b6
'Roberts, Rich' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6 >
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010512
MORENS_NIH_021033
REL0000479348

(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.

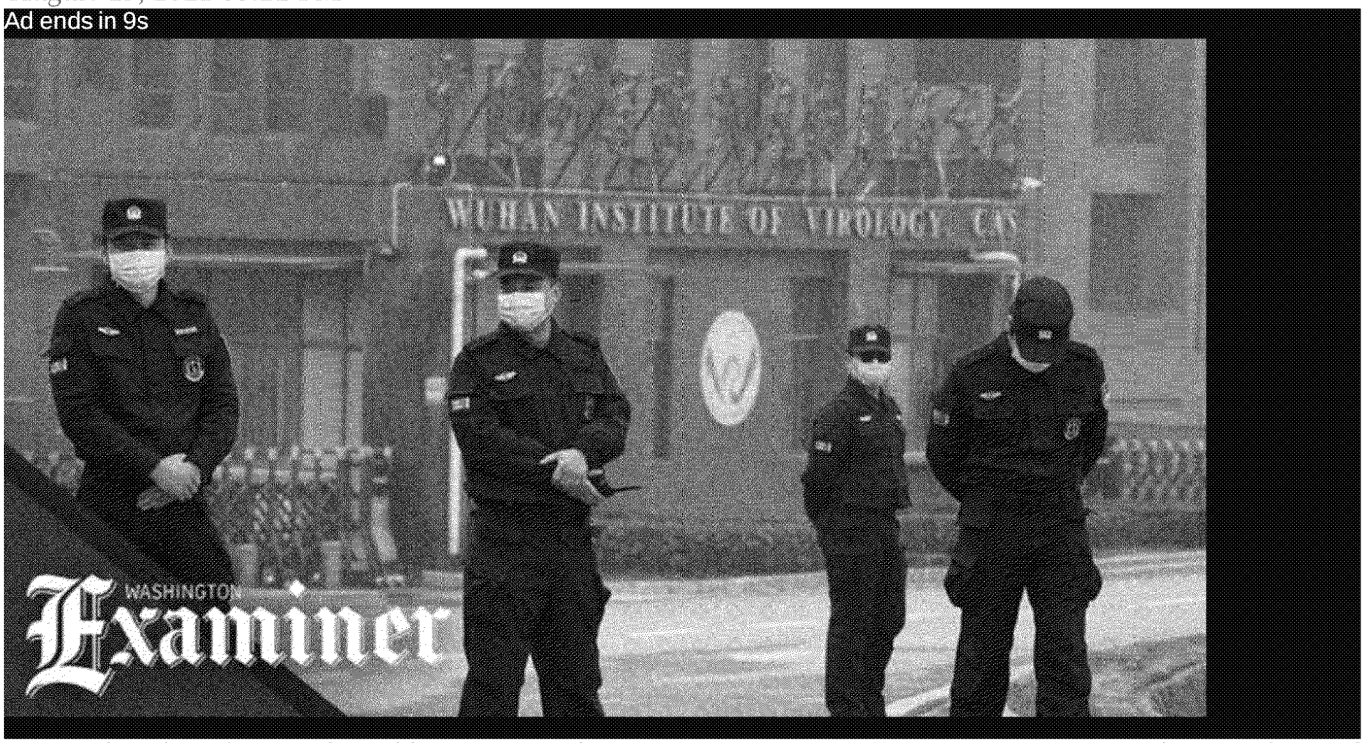
Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010513
MORENS_NIH_021034
REL0000479348

connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance. But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China. EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.
Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; Gerald T Keusch b6; Jeff Sturchio b6
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 b6 > 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010515
MORENS_NIH_021036
REL0000479348

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 'David Morens' b6 >; 'Gerald T Keusch' b6 Jeff Sturchio (b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010516
MORENS_NIH_021037
REL0000479348

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 avid Morens b6 ; David Morens < b6
Gerald T Keusch < b6
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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens < b6 ; David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch < b6 ; Roberts, Rich < b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010517
MORENS_NIH_021038
REL0000479348

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > --
> > Emily Kopp
> > Reporter
> > U.S. Right to Know
> > Signal: b6 b6
> >
> > 

Date: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 10:34:22 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 10:34:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Regarding April 4, 2024 Announcement by the House Energy & Commerce Committee
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] peter hotez [b6]

Glad to see that Greg Folkers circulated EHA's statement in response to the Energy & Commerce Committee's press release, which made some baseless allegations about Peter Daszak's earlier testimony.

As ever,
Jeff

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:29 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>; peter hotez [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Subject: Fwd: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Regarding April 4, 2024 Announcement by the House Energy & Commerce Committee

This was sent around widely internally within nih. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Thu, Apr 4, 2024, 22:04 Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C] [b6] wrote:

EcoHealth Alliance Statement Regarding April 4, 2024 Announcement by the House Energy & Commerce Committee

April 4, 2024 – EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) can confirm that Dr. Peter Daszak, EHA President & CEO, will testify voluntarily before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) of the U. S. House of Representatives on May 1, 2024. Dr. Daszak's public testimony follows on a voluntarily transcribed interview he provided to the SSCP late last year.

The Energy & Commerce Committee's announcement about this hearing continues to misrepresent the work of EcoHealth Alliance and makes several inaccurate allegations about Dr. Daszak's previous public statements. Dr. Daszak looks forward to answering the Committee's questions, clarifying the areas of misunderstanding, and informing them about the vital research that EcoHealth Alliance conducts globally.

EcoHealth Alliance's mission is to conduct research on emerging disease threats to the US, identify the underlying causes of pandemics, develop solutions to prevent them, and benefit conservation. The public nature of our work and our long-standing

collaborations with Chinese scientists made us a target for speculation about the origins of COVID-19, beginning in early 2020 and continuing to this day. EcoHealth Alliance's work is a matter of public record, via dozens of grant reports, scientific publications, media interviews and public lectures given before, during and after the emergence of COVID-19. EcoHealth Alliance scientists have worked in partnership with US Federal Agencies since the early 2000s to identify emerging disease threats in hotspots around the world before they migrate to the United States. EcoHealth Alliance's research thus has direct benefits for the health of the American people, strengthens national security, and enhances sustainable economic growth in our allies around the world.

Press contact: communications@ecohealthalliance.org

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 12:00:19 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 12:00:04 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Piece in Forbes calling for no further fieldwork to discover wildlife viruses...!
From: "Hotez, b6
To: Peter Daszak b6
CC: David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Robert Kessler b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image001.jpg

His recommendations seem to me are the exact opposite of what needs to be done. I don't understand some of these people.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:55 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

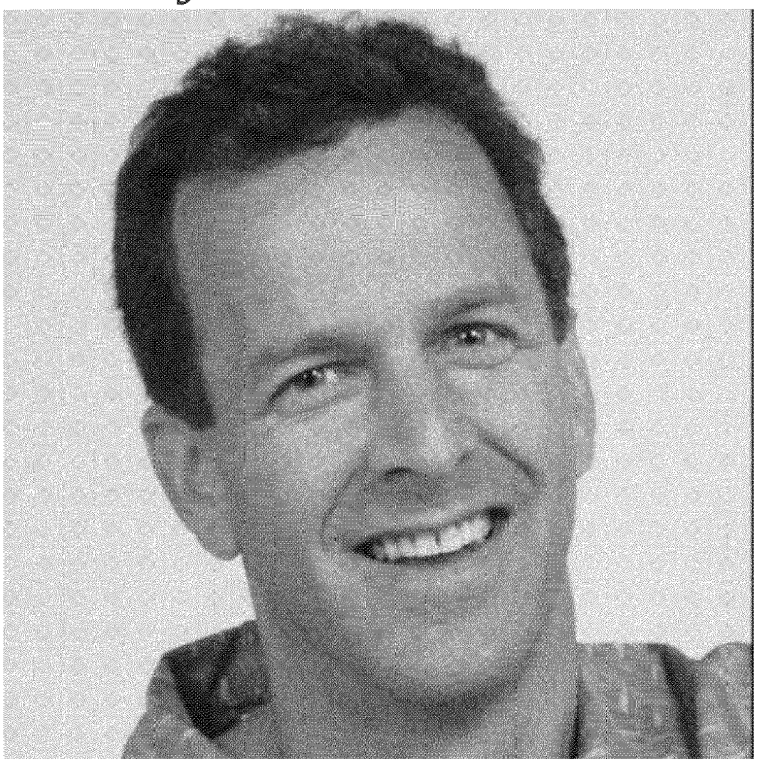
I don't want to continue amplifying the nasty stories out there, but I think this is something you should be aware of if you haven't seen it. This is an Op Ed in Forbes by Steven Salzberg. Apparently he was part of the effort to push for a ban on gain of function work years ago, which is not an issue 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013875
MORENS_NIH_026339
REL0000479359

Contributor
Healthcare
Follow
Listen to article
11 minutes



MORENS_SUBPOENA_013876
MORENS_NIH_026340
REL0000479359

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 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

CDC: Salmonella Outbreak Has Left 279 Ill, 26 Hospitalized In 29 States

Canadians End Up In ICU After Attending 'Covid Party'

White House Mandates Pfizer Vaccines for Millions of Citizens ...Before the FDA Clinical or Safety Reviews Have Been Made Public

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013877
MORENS_NIH_026341
REL0000479359

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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013878
MORENS_NIH_026342
REL0000479359

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."

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?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013879
MORENS_NIH_026343
REL0000479359

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.)

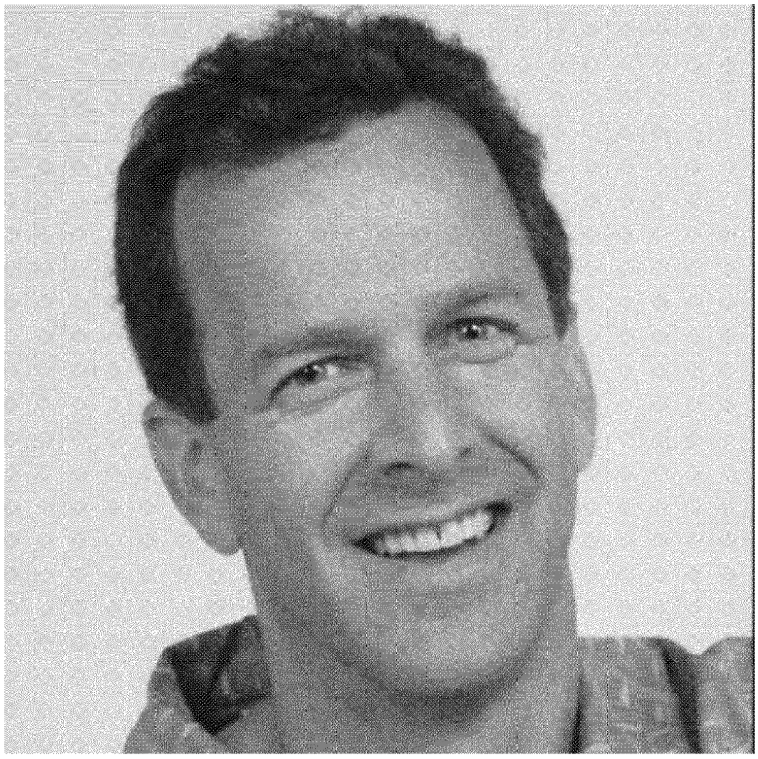
It's also time to ask, very critically, whether anyone should be venturing out into remote areas to collect animals that are infected with possible pandemic-causing microbes, and bringing those animals back to densely populated areas. Rather than preventing pandemics, these activities are more likely 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.

Follow me on Twitter. Check out my website.



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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2022 12:03:54 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 1 Mar 2022 12:03:41 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Betsy McKay
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 peter hotez b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6

She's very good. I've spoken with her many times, and at length. Not only is she a good science journalist, she also publishes in a Right wing journal, so that helps get the story out to people who otherwise are attacking the science.

I do hope you'll talk with her - it sounds like she's doing background for what we were talking with her about 2 weeks ago, i.e. that the NIH letters we're receiving are always in response to partisan Republican attacks, and designed by Michael Lauer, Francis Collins and now Larry Tabak to make EcoHealth look like its non-compliant, and make the Office of the Director look like they're going above and beyond to rail us in. I pointed out that we can easily refute every one of the allegations levelled at us, but we are usually not asked at the time - only later on by NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 10:28 AM

To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T
<b6> peter hotez <b6> Jeffrey Sturchio
<b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>;
Roberts, Rich <b6>
Subject:

Do you guys know Betsy McKay at the WSJ? She wants to speak to me on background about EHA.

david

David M. Morens, MD
b6
<b6> <b6> <b6> (work)
<b6> <b6> <b6> (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 5:53:06 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 5:51:09 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Thanks David – I also had a good conversation with Dennis Carroll who's been through a bunch of these (USAID is a big target).

We're enthusiastically complying and will give them exactly what they ask for (no more). We're confident that the worst they'll find is that we filed out subcontract details late (already known by NIAID, and now fully compliant). The Stevens Amendment stuff that Jodi Ernst accused us of is pretty much garbage – we list our funders frequently and fully. I already checked a few weeks back on some of the filings from WIV – they gave us very good accounting of expenditures, so we don't expect any issues to be found of any significance.

Please let others know at NIAID that we're complying and are confident no surprises will be forthcoming!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Peter Daszak b6
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

In my experience these folks are bean counters but they know honest people when they see them. They don't go nuts over minor issues, which evberyone has. Not to worry…..

David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020894
MORENS_NIH_041659
REL0000479368

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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6]
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

There is only one response, bite your tongue and comply with their inspection.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

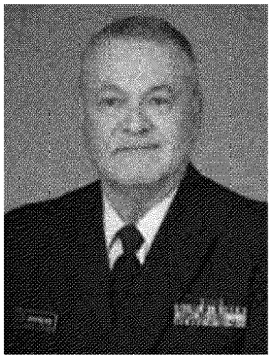
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
b6
Subject: FW: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Sad….. Most small children believe in Santa Claus….. Not so sad….

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020897
MORENS_NIH_041662
REL0000479368

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.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 8 May 2023 3:52:23 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 8 May 2023 3:52:17 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
From: Peter Dasza[b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hall, Mary Ann [b6] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]
CC: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6] >; [b6] Alison Andre [b6] >;

Jerry, everyone, our FAO call proposed time is between 1 and 5pm Central European Time on the 19th June = 7am-11am Eastern Time

That means Jerry and I are prob able to do the 10 or 11am CST on the 19th = 11am or 12pm Eastern Time.

Jerry – you should just check and confirm.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:41 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; 'Roberts, Rich [b6] 'Hall, Mary Ann' <[b6]
'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6] >; 'David Morens' <
[b6] >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]
Cc: 'Calo, Mary Andrea' <[b6]
'Alison Andre <[b6]
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

I'm available at the same times as Jerry – I'm on the same FAO call. I'll pencil them in.

Just noting that these are Central Time…for those of us on the East Coast.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003582
MORENS_NIH_010486
REL0000479370

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hall, Mary Ann [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6]
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

I'm OK at 10 or 11 on the 19th. I'm in an FAO briefing on COVID origins in the afternoon, potentially starting at 1 so that is problematic.

The 20th is OK.

So is the 21st but its best to pick a date when Rich is available to join. Jerry

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Hall, Mary Ann [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6]
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
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003583
MORENS_NIH_010487
REL0000479370

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hall, Mary Ann b6
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 g >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 David Morens b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 | www.bcm.edu

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 b6
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 | www.bcm.edu

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003584
MORENS_NIH_010488
REL0000479370

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] g >; Aleksei Chmura < [b6] >; David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6] >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6]
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: [b6] | M: [b6]
[b6] | www.bcm.edu

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens < [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts < [b6] >; Hall, Mary Ann < [b6]
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6]; Hotez, Peter Ja [b6]
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 [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003586
MORENS_NIH_010490
REL0000479370

Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:57:34 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:56:31 AM -0400
Subject: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]

Lots happening:

1. '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
2. 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.
3. 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.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:47:34 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:47:33 PM -0400
Subject: With a message
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [redacted]
To: Peter Daszak [redacted] David Morens [redacted]

I asked him for some samples of his recent writing and he didn't hesitate to send me the ones in the previous email. I took that as a plus. But I will be wary.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted] David Morens [redacted]
Subject: FW: Greetings from the Wall Street Journal

From: Hinshaw, Drew <Drew.Hinshaw@wsj.com >
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]
Subject: Re: Greetings from the Wall Street Journal

Thanks, that sounds good. Here's a quick sample of what we've been working on here – talk then, thanks.

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 9:19 PM Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] wrote:

> That works. I'll probably take the call from home, so use my cell phone [redacted] or my landline [redacted]
>
> I thought it would be worthwhile to see what you have been writing on the topic, but I don't subscribe to the WSJ (sorry to admit I am overloaded on reading) so I can't download any articles. I did see online on the WSJ website several articles by you published in March of this year about the WHO team visit and some of the responses to it. If its easy to send the text to me I would appreciate it.
>
> Let me know if we are confirmed for Friday and I'll plan on it and arrange the rest of the day accordingly.
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hinshaw, Drew [redacted]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:09 PM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]
> **Subject:** Re: Greetings from the Wall Street Journal
>
> Thanks Jerry,
>
> Understood, and no rush – what's Friday like for you? 9 Friday is doable for me, if for you?
> Thanks,
> Drew.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021207
MORENS_NIH_042059
REL0000479380

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 9:07 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

> Sorry Drew, I have a class from 10-noon and another from 1-3 tomorrow. I usually prepare for the second class during the noon hour, but depending on how long you want to chat I can free up some of that time slot.
>
> I don't know how pressed you are on the Dr. Tedros article, but I could talk around 3:30 tomorrow – I have a PCR scheduled at 3:15 and its quick (required weekly for all of us working in person on the BU Medical Campus). I could call you as soon as I am done. Or we might find some time later in the afternoon.
>
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hinshaw, Drew <[b6]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:53 PM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
> **Subject:** Re: Greetings from the Wall Street Journal
>
> Thanks I have another call at 9, but could do 10 if that works for you?
>
> On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 6:44 PM Keusch, Gerald T <[b6] wrote:
>
> > How about 9 am tomorrow morning. Same phone number.
> >
> > Jerry
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Hinshaw, Drew [b6]
> > **Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:44 AM
> > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]
> > **Subject:** Re: Greetings from the Wall Street Journal
> >
> > Thanks Jerry – what's a good time tomorrow look like? I've been drafted into a story here that I have to deal with. Thanks.
> >
> > On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 4:32 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:
> >
> > > Good morning Drew,
> > >
> > > I have time between 3 and 5 this afternoon. Let me know what works and I'll block the time. My office phone is 617-358-9186.
> > >
> > > Jerry Keusch
> > >
> > > ---
> > >
> > > **From:** Hinshaw, Drew [b6]
> > > **Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 6:38 AM
> > > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
> > > **Subject:** Greetings from the Wall Street Journal
> > >
> > > Dear Dr. Keusch,
> > >
> > > Hello, I'm Drew Hinshaw, a senior reporter for the Wall Street Journal, hope you're doing well.
> > >
> > > Would you have a few minutes to chat? We're writing about Dr. Tedros's push within the WHO to have the lab accident theory probed, and looking to kind of stack up the reasons why virologists and epidemiologists generally don't think it represents a very plausible explanation for the origins of Covid-19. I saw you signed the open letter with the Lancet last

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021208
MORENS_NIH_042060
REL0000479380

year – is there a good time to chat?

Let me know if so and thanks,
Drew.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021209
MORENS_NIH_042061
REL0000479380

Date: Thu, 4 Jan 2024 2:55:05 PM -0500
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: David Morens b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David Morens

b6

b6 b6 b6 (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **David Morens** <b6>
Date: Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 5:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
To: Peter Daszak <b6>, Gerald Keusch <b6>, Rich Roberts <b6>, Peter Hotez <b6> Jeff Sturchio <b6> Aleksei Chmura <b6>

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
> **Date:** August 24, 2023 at 17:35:22 EDT
> **To:** David Morens b6
> **Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction**
>
> Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: August 24, 2023 at 14:52:01 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6
Cc: "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" b6 >, "Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" <b6 "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Subject: RE: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Yes, anything that will support your statement . If you are able to have one or more of the recipients forward you the email string if any still have in their possession that may be helpful.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 ; Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 >
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, before i start looking, can you be more specific about what i should search for? It seems like there are several different things. I am thinking you mean emails i sent them asking them to stop sending personal stuff to my govt email and send to gmail instead?

Not sure if i still have such emails but since our emails are saved forever per David Awwad, there should be more than one in the system

Also, this morning i got a call from Jeff Taubenberger about something else and i asked him what he remembered of this. The answer was quite a bit, as i asked him too, separately from the others, to keep email and gmail separate as appropriate. He says he will look and see if he has emails from me about that, but both he and i remember these discussions were verbal as we speak or meet almost daily

That got me to thinking that whatever i can or can't find on my email, the recipients may have retained them, these recipients being what the friends called the "support group" for Peter Daszak and Peter Hotez, who were recipients of the most worrisome death threats, and very rarely, surely less than 5 times, included Eddie Holmes, who was also receiving death threats

These science "support group" friends were a core group of 7 people, occasionally one or more added for specific reasons, all but me non government scientists. They will certainly remember me asking them repeatedly, and may have emails to document that

I could contact them, or should i not do that at this time?

david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2023, at 14:54, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6** wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016791
MORENS_NIH_034942
REL0000479383

David,

In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?

> *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.*

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016792
MORENS_NIH_034943
REL0000479383

groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service (ret.)

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

- b6 (assistant: Sherri DePollar)
- b6
- b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6 ; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6 ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci

b. Francis Collins

c. Lawrence Tabek

d. Hugh Auchincloss

e. Cliff Lane

f. David Morens

g. Ping Chen

h. Ian Watson

i. Andrew Pope

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016794
MORENS_NIH_034945
REL0000479383

j. Victor Dzau

k. Robert Redfield

l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee

m. David Christian Hassell

n. Jeremy Farrar

o. Robert Garry

p. Michael Farzan

q. Edward Holmes

r. W. Ian Lipkin

s. Andrew Rambaut

t. Peter Daszak

u. Aleksei Chmura

v. Kevin Olival

w. Christian Drosten

x. Ron Fouchier

y. Marion Koopmans

z. Michael Worobey

aa. Jonathan Pekar

bb. Florence Debarre

cc. Angela Rasmussen

dd. Ralph Baric

ee. James LeDuc

ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016795
MORENS_NIH_034946
REL0000479383

Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember

deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail, once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016796
MORENS_NIH_034947
REL0000479383

the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than under identifying emails and stuff

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related..

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> wrote:

David,

If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016797
MORENS_NIH_034948
REL0000479383

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks Jill,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016799
MORENS_NIH_034950
REL0000479383

i have a few questions.... see below

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] > wrote:
>
> David,
>
> For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

> You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be

able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

> Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those. Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there maybe emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016802
MORENS_NIH_034953
REL0000479383

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 wrote:

Dr. Morens,

Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.

Thanks,

Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

Phone: b6

b6

Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:26 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Date: Sun, Nov 6, 2022 at 10:30 PM
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006135
MORENS_NIH_015025
REL0000479387

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill list' posted on the Right wing anonymous internet site 4Chan. Someone posted the names of 6 virologists, including myself, and encouraged people who have had enough and were ready to commit suicide, to take go out and murder this group first. Even more horrific, they named my wife (b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006137
MORENS_NIH_015027
REL0000479387

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.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura
[b6]>; David Morens [b6]>
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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006139
MORENS_NIH_015029
REL0000479387

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).

Best regards,

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >
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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006141
MORENS_NIH_015031
REL0000479387

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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006142
MORENS_NIH_015032
REL0000479387

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006143
MORENS_NIH_015033
REL0000479387

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006144
MORENS_NIH_015034
REL0000479387

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the Nature Medicine correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the Nature Medicine correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006145
MORENS_NIH_015035
REL0000479387

refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,

Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006146
MORENS_NIH_015036
REL0000479387

Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 11:02:23 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 11:02:18 AM -0400
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments: image001.png

Sachs is anything but "balanced, measured, and circumspect" on this issue – more like biased, obdurate, and impervious to reason. Your suggestion on how to handle the referee's comment is sensible – let's hope that Richard Horton sees that and insists on a change, rather than concurring with Sachs's approach.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

Jeff's response and my response to Jeff

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Doug b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Date: June 28, 2022 at 8:02:33 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs b6
Cc: Juliana Bartels b6 "Gaspar, Vitor" b6 "Zinabou, Genet" < b6 Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali" b6 >, Alejandro Gaviria < b6 >, Gaviria Uribe Alejandro b6 , "Bottazzi, Maria Elena" < b6 >, b6 , Lara Aknin <lara b6 Chandrika Bahadur < b6 , Lauren Barredo b6 Chris Bullen < b6 , gaby cuevas < b6 >, Andrew Haines b6 >, Neena Joshi b6 >, Ozge Karadag Karadag < b6 , Phoebe Koundouri < b6 Gabriela < b6 "Morales, Andrés" b6 Francesca Colombo b6 , Guillaume Lafortune b6 Jeff Sachs < b6 >, Yanis Ben Amo b6 >, Emma Torres < b6 , George Laryea-Adjei b6 Uyen Kim Huynh <uhuynh@unicef.org b6 Vaira Vike Freiberga b6 Kirsten Brosbøl b6 , Juan Pablo Cadena b6 John Thwaites < b6 >, Jong-Koo Lee b6 , Booyuel Kim b6 >, Muhammad Ali Pate < b6 , Miriam Khamadi Were b6 b6 , Marissa VanRy b6 >, Felipe Larrain Bascuñan b6 Susan Michie b6 Jeffrey Lazarus b6 Margaret Hellard < b6 >, Shweta Khandelwal b6 >, "Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW)" b6

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007213
MORENS_NIH_016398
REL0000479390

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skyp b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <b6> 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007214
MORENS_NIH_016399
REL0000479390

issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 wrote:

Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:

2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels b6
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor <b6 inabou, Genet <b6 ; Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali b6 Alejandro Gaviria b6 ; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro b6 >; Bottazzi, Maria Elena <b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Lara Aknin <lara b6 Chandrika Bahadur b6 Lauren Barredo < b6 >; Chris Bullen b6 gaby cuevas < b6 Andrew Haines b6 Neena Joshi < >; Ozge Karadag Karadag <b6 >; Phoebe Koundouri < Gabriela b6 ; Morales, Andrés <b6 b6 ; Francesca Colombo b6 Guillaume Lafortune <b6 ; Jeff Sac b6 ; Yanis Ben Amor < b6 ; Emma Torres b6 >; George Laryea-Adjei < ; Uyen Kim Huynh b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007216
MORENS_NIH_016401
REL0000479390

b6 Vaira Vike Freiberga b6 >; b6 >; Kirsten Brosbøl < b6 >; Juan Pablo Caden b6 >; John Thwaites < b6 >; Jong-Koo Lee b6 >; Booyuel Kim < b6 Muhammad Ali Pate b6 >; Miriam Khamadi Were < b6 b6 Marissa VanRy b6 >; Felipe Larrain Bascuñan < b6 >; Susan Michie b6 Jeffrey Lazarus b6 ; Margaret Hellard < b6 >; Shweta Khandelwal < b6 >; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) b6

Cc: Juliana Bartels b6

Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie
--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
b6

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 1:50:55 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 1:50:30 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From: "Soriano Osejo, Douglas" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

Dear all,

Would today at 4:30 pm CDT/ 5:30 pm EDT work for you?

All the best,

Douglas Soriano

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support to **Peter Hotez,** MD, Ph.D., DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
National School of Tropical Medicine | Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Soriano Osejo, Douglas b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Hi Peter, that is useful. I know Barry (he tried to recruit me back to Sinai when he was Chief of Medicine), and the NEIDL has one of Charlie Rice's PhD student on faculty now. So very useful.

I'm sending out a link for a Zoom call tomorrow at 3:15. I will have 45 minutes (I can try to delay the 4 pm call a bit) but there is no constraint for you to continue talking beyond that if useful.
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Soriano Osejo, Douglas <Douglas.Sori b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Cc'ng Douglas Soriano to determine availability. Fyi I spoke on science and scientists under attack for my Rockefeller Univ lecture last night for their "Insight Series". People like Rick Lifton, Barry Coller, Charlie Rice, Jeff Friedman are all in, in case that's useful.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skyp b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: 7 b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 13, 2022, at 10:37 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > wrote:

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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Richi[b6] Keusch, Gerald T[b6]; David Moren[b6]
Jeff Sturchio[b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

I spoke with Richard Lifton, Charlie Rice, Michel Nussenzweig, Jeff Friedman, Cory Bargmann today about this at my Rockefeller Univ visit. They are starting to get it. In the meantime, maybe we should express our concerns to Victor?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail[b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype[b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone:[b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 4:52 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] 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.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007447
MORENS_NIH_016693
REL0000479392

b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6

Cc: Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmu b6

Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens < b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6

Cc: Jeff Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007448
MORENS_NIH_016694
REL0000479392

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: b6
Cc: Kim, Se b6
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

The information contained in this transmission is confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly

notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Tue, 25 May 2021 2:17:10 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Fox: DeSantis asks if Fauci's COVID-19 origin remarks will result in censorship
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>
To: Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
[b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
[b6]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 12:46 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE [b6]>; NIAID OCGR Leg [b6]>; NIAID OD AM [b6]
Subject: Fox: DeSantis asks if Fauci's COVID-19 origin remarks will result in censorship

POLITICS

Published 13 hours ago

DeSantis asks if Fauci's COVID-19 origin remarks will result in censorship

DeSantis referenced Fauci's remarks at a press conference ahead of his signing of a Florida social media bill

By Thomas Barrabi | Fox News

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took a sarcastic jab at social media platforms on Monday, asking if Dr. Anthony Fauci should be deplatformed after he said earlier this month he was "not convinced" that COVID-19 developed naturally.

DeSantis referenced Fauci's remarks at a press conference ahead of his signing of a Florida bill that will penalize social media platforms for suspending the accounts of political candidates.

During the event, the Republican governor argued that social media platforms had previously cracked down on accounts who posted claims that the COVID-19 pandemic may have originated at a lab in Wuhan, China.

"Now we have information that this very well may have emanated from the Wuhan lab, that it was a leak from the lab," DeSantis said. "But you remember, when people last year were raising that as something that needed to be investigated, they were deplatformed for talking about the lab leak, they were censored for having said that, and now even Fauci admits that this may be something that may very well is the case. Are they going to now censor Fauci and pull him down off social media?"

The World Health Organization report compiled in tandem with Chinese experts concluded in March that the lab leak theory was "extremely unlikely" and the virus most likely spread through human contact with infected animals. But officials in the US and Europe have questioned the report's findings and called for a more transparent investigation into the virus' origins.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday that three researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology required hospital treatment in November 2019. A previous State Department fact sheet noted the researchers had "symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness."

Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, was a longtime skeptic of the lab theory, telling National Geographic last May that there was no scientific evidence claims the virus was "artificially or deliberately manipulated."

Fauci appeared to reverse course during an appearance at a PolitiFact virtual symposium earlier this month. During the event, Fauci was asked if he was still confident the virus developed naturally.

"I'm not convinced about that. I think we should continue to investigate what went on in China until we find out, to the best of our ability, what happened," Fauci said at the event. "Certainly, the people who have investigated it say it likely was the emergence from an animal reservoir that then infected individuals, but it could have been something else and we need to find that out."

-

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Thu, 2 Dec 2021 3:41:57 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 2 Dec 2021 3:41:21 PM -0500
Subject:	Story on the NAM misconduct process in Science
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	keusch b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6
CC:	Jeff Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

Here's a story in Science about how secretive this process is – with suggestions that it's secretive to protect NAM's reputation rather than do a fair job of reviewing accusations.

I'm beginning to feel like there's a Kangaroo Court being assembled to 'get rid of' a person who is a little bit inconvenient at the moment. Paranoid, yes, but with this level of attack, and with this level of secrecy or 'confidentiality' I think I've got good reason.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015067
MORENS_NIH_030744
REL0000479396



When leaders of the prestigious U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM) notified members late last year that they had expelled physician Eric Noji for scientific misconduct, the announcement came with a pointed request: "*Please consider this information highly confidential, only for members.*"

On the members-only section of the NAM website in December 2020, the details were relayed by NAM President Victor Dzau and Home Secretary Elena Fuentes-Afflick: "On October 19, 2020, Dr. Eric Noji's

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015068
MORENS_NIH_030745
REL0000479396

membership in the National Academy of Medicine was rescinded based on a determination that he engaged in conduct that included fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism."

The medical school where Noji was an adjunct professor had severed ties with him in 2016 after a probe found he was a serial fabricator and plagiarist who had lifted a whole book chapter from a colleague. *The New York Times*, in describing his behavior in 2018, noted claims of a nonexistent medal for Antarctic scientific exploration and a fictitious Stanford University MBA.

Noji did not respond to repeated emails seeking comment. But he is listed as a member of the medical advisory committee at NanoBiotech Pharma—whose website touts his 2005 election to NAM. (The company did not respond to a request for comment.)

Such public, career-burnishing boasts underscore why NAM should have revealed Noji's ouster, argues Frederick Burkle, an NAM member whose work was plagiarized by Noji. "Close to 100% of the people he plagiarized were not NAM members. … How would they know [about his expulsion]? We have a moral and ethical obligation to warn the public of malignant plagiarists," says Burkle, a senior fellow and scientist at Harvard University's Humanitarian Initiative. "NAM should have gone totally public in major newspapers."

Dzau defended NAM's actions in an interview with *Science*. He argued that only academy members need to know of expulsions because the point is to deter misconduct by members and prevent nominations of people with suspect behavioral records for election. (Only NAM's 2235 members can nominate new members, who are elected at the annual meeting, which this year is slated for 17 October.) "What we want to do [is] to discourage any misconduct, to set examples," Dzau says. "We [also] want to make sure we don't get nominations [of bad actors]. That's the important issue for us—and not public shaming."

A NAM spokesperson, Molly Galvin, added in a written statement: "We decided not to make a public announcement but we would always confirm membership status if asked by a journalist or member of the public."

Others say NAM should go further. "I remain baffled by NAM leadership's decision to keep this secret," says member Arthur Kellermann, senior vice president for health sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2016, Kellermann, then dean of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine, ordered a staff investigation of Noji after allegations of plagiarism. Its findings led the university to sever its ties with Noji, then an adjunct professor there. Kellerman filed a formal complaint about Noji with NAM in 2016, the same year NAM members began to make bylaw changes allowing it to oust badly behaved members.



Eric Noji at a conference in 2012ALABASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY

NAM completed those changes in 2019. As part of that process, NAM adopted a Code of Conduct that forbids offenses such as bullying, sexual harassment, and scientific misconduct, including fabrication and plagiarism. (Anyone can file a complaint alleging misconduct by a member of any of the three academies that comprise the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NASEM], but the engineering academy says it has received no complaints since adopting its expulsion process in 2019.)

Dzau explained that, for legal reasons, NAM decided to keep announcements of expulsions to members only: "This is not a decision I made. It was a decision [made with] the advice and consultation with the general counsel of the national academies." The general counsel declined to be interviewed or to answer written questions about the legal basis for not publicly naming expelled members.

NAM also declined to enumerate the number of complaints it has received about misconduct by its members,

describe the nature of any alleged offenses, or provide the status or disposition of any investigation. "The NAM's policy and procedure on violations of the code of conduct does not allow us to disclose this information," NAM said in a statement.

That policy contrasts with that of one of its sister organizations, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Like NAM, NAS does not proactively announce member expulsions, like those of astronomer Geoffrey Marcy and evolutionary biologist Francisco Ayala in the spring, and it will confirm expulsions if asked. (NAS expulsions also become public if people who filed complaints about an ejected member leak the decisions to the press.) But NAS has updated journalists on the number of complaints filed about its members, their nature, and their outcomes, without naming the members under investigation. The NAS website also allows users to search its public member directory for members who have been expelled.

In the interview with *Science*, Dzau pledged to add a similar search function to the NAM website, if NAM's governing council approves.

Critics say a policy of keeping expulsions to private, members-only circles is tone deaf to the moment in medicine and science, particularly as the academies' misconduct codes encompass behavior such as sexual harassment, bullying, and plagiarism—offenses that could continue if an offender's conduct isn't widely known.

"Do [the academies] send out a press release every time they admit someone? [Yes.] Then I think they should send out a press release every time they rescind someone's membership. And they should state why," says physician Holly Atkinson, an affiliate medical professor at the City University of New York School of Medicine who has pushed for more institutional transparency around behavioral offenses by people in academic medicine. "It's a public affirmation that the institution is living up to its stated values."

The confidentiality around expulsions "absolutely is a disincentive" for whistleblowers to report bad behavior to the academies, adds physician Anushri Anandaraja, a consultant on COVID-19 vaccine outreach in New York City and a plaintiff in a gender discrimination case. Many will decide it's not worth the effort and trauma of reporting, she says, if NAM is going to keep quiet about the outcome and thus potentially allow an offender to take a new job with an employer unaware of NAM's expulsion. "The protocols of the NAM … really allow the passing of the trash," she says. "Professionals that have been engaged in misconduct can … without ever being held accountable, continue in positions of power or influence where they may continue to be harmful to others."

NAM's reluctance to provide data on complaints and its narrow legal concerns are at odds with NASEM's landmark 2018 report documenting sexual harassment in science, engineering, and medicine, says Jennifer Freyd, a psychologist and faculty fellow at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford and member of a committee advising NASEM on preventing sexual harassment in higher education. That report's seven recommendations included calls for institutions to improve transparency and accountability, and move beyond "symbolic legal compliance to address culture and climate."

---

doi: 10.1126/science.acx9256

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015071
MORENS_NIH_030748
REL0000479396

RELEVANT TAGS:
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Meredith Wadman
mail Twitter
Autho

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015072
MORENS_NIH_030749
REL0000479396

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 3:33 PM
To: 'keusch' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 ; 'David Morens b6 <
b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Subject: FW: follow-up from the NAM

Just keeping you abreast of what the NAM are saying. I don't have a response on my request for the specific policy that says I can't take part in NAM activities while these allegations are under review (I suspect there are none).

However I did get the weird email below saying I should keep all this confidential – maybe it's because Victor's seen your email Jerry.

I don't know if they realize that the Republicans already published the letter in full on their website! Maybe I should let her know that.

I also, ironically got a notice to cast my vote for NAM Home Secretary today, so I voted for this person's rival. I'm sure they'd be equally as opaque, but it's at least some empowerment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015074
MORENS_NIH_030751
REL0000479396

To: b6
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015075
MORENS_NIH_030752
REL0000479396

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:33:00 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:32:55 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>;
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Pathetic

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

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 <[b6]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]> David Morens <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 wrote:

It's just
b6

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6 Keusch, Gerald T <b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Doug b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID- Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano [b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] ; David Morens [b6]
Rich Roberts [b6] ; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
>
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano [b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > 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 May 2022 6:37:11 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 11 May 2022 6:34:54 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] peter hotez [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
Attachments: image011.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Virginia Hughes
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New York Times journalist al
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:49:00 PM

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn't a mystery. Th
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappear; it was remov
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the mystery part of t
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted an analysis and fo
packages were withdrawn upon request of the submi
included one requested by the submitter from China
the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009397
MORENS_NIH_019876
REL0000479405

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6; peter hotez b6; Roberts, Rich <
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** < b6
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens b6

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

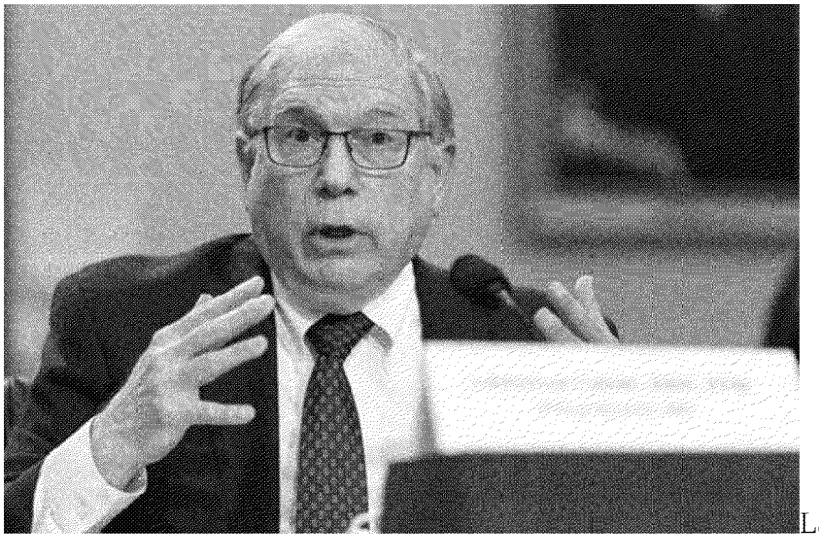
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009399
MORENS_NIH_019878
REL0000479405


Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.

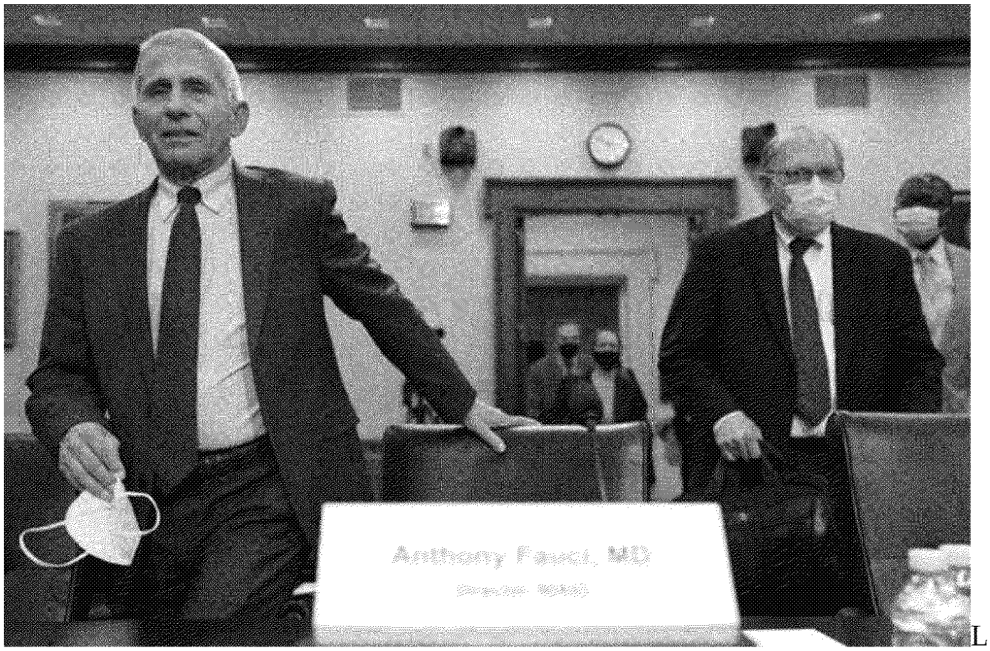


Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 1:20:15 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 1:15:52 PM -0400
Subject: FW: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >
To: David Morens b6 b6 >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Jerry b6 >
Subject: Re: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter, i had some long discussions with the Trop med folks today

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020214
MORENS_NIH_040811
REL0000479410

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 [b6] 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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry < [b6] >
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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020215
MORENS_NIH_040812
REL0000479410

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Keusch, Jerry b6
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: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6>; Keusch, Jerry b6 Roberts, Rich <
b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020216
MORENS_NIH_040813
REL0000479410

Epstein's.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Jerry b6 < b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: FW: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab



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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or**

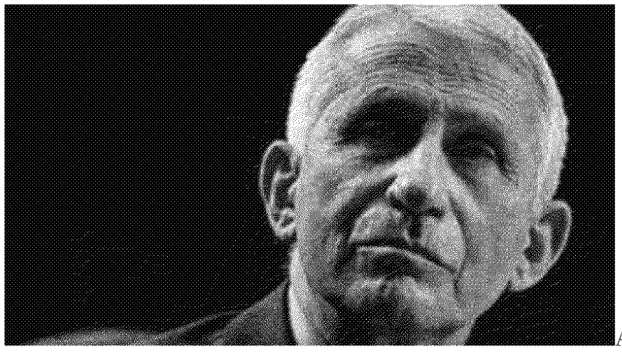
CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020218
MORENS_NIH_040815
REL0000479410

his own disastrous handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now lashing out against Dr. Anthony Fauci for allegedly failing to seriously consider that the virus might have originated from China's Wuhan lab, rather than from an animal's transmission to humans.

But judging from what Fauci told me in a June 4

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020219
MORENS_NIH_040816
REL0000479410

interview, the most respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

Fauci, who heads the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and is a top medical adviser to President Biden, said, “It is more likely” that

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020220
MORENS_NIH_040817
REL0000479410

—
much
like
SARS,
ebola,
influenza
and
HIV
—
COVID-
19
“originated
from
an
animal
reservoir
and
jumped
species
to
humans.”
He
added,
“There’s
the
possibility
that
it
came
from
the
lab,
but
I
believe
that
that’s
a
much
less
likely
possibility.”

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n “Oppenheimer Presenta” on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it’s “important” to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

Biden
has
asked
U.S.
intelligence
agencies

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020221
MORENS_NIH_040818
REL0000479410

to investigate the origins of COVID-19 and come back with a report before the end of August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

"I think it needs to be done in a collegial way, with the collaboration of the Chinese scientists, because you're going to have to have cooperation and do it in a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020222
MORENS_NIH_040819
REL0000479410

way
that
you
can
best
get
the
information,”
he
said.

Regarding
his
emails
obtained
by
BuzzFeed
and
the
Washington
Post
through
the
Freedom
Of
Information
Act,
Fauci
told
me
that
his
critics
“cherrypick
things
out
of
context”
when
they
claim
that
he
knew
more
than
he
was
saying
publicly
about
the
possibility

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020223
MORENS_NIH_040820
REL0000479410

that the virus came out of a Chinese lab.

Stressing that he never totally discarded the lab theory — though he never thought it was a major possibility — Fauci added that, "I think what has increased is the interest, not necessarily the evidence."

Right-wing media have had a field

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020224
MORENS_NIH_040821
REL0000479410

day with the Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the "lab theory" early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their claims are based on a Jan. 31, 2020, email, in which infectious-disease expert Kristian Andersen wrote to Fauci that some of the virus' features "[potentially] looked

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020225
MORENS_NIH_040822
REL0000479410

engineered."

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon further investigation, that the "lab theory" was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the "lab theory" from the public does not hold up.

Of course, Trump now is trying to paint Fauci as the culprit for the fact that America holds the world's record for COVID-19 deaths in absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was right about the China Virus coming

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020226
MORENS_NIH_040823
REL0000479410

from the Wuhan Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan lab, Trump's accusations should be seen as just another attempt to bypass science and divert public attention from the COVID-19 deaths caused by his failure to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020227
MORENS_NIH_040824
REL0000479410

tackle
the
pandemic.

Remember,
Trump
knew
early
on
that
COVID
would
be
deadly
—
he
is
on
tape
telling
author
Bob
Woodward
this
in
February
2020
—
but
chose
to
lie
to
the
American
people
for
fear
that
it
would
ruin
his
re-
election
chances.
What's
more,
Trump
consistently
refused
to
wear

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020228
MORENS_NIH_040825
REL0000479410

a mask or preach social distance, as scientists were recommending.

As I wrote at the time

Trump neglected his main duty — to protect the American people.

Granted, investigations into the origins of COVID-19 are justified and should continue. And there's no question that China's dictatorship is responsible for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020229
MORENS_NIH_040826
REL0000479410

its
delay
in
alerting
the
world
about
the
deadly
virus
as
soon
as
it
started.

But
barring
solid
evidence
that
the
virus
originated
from
a
Chinese
lab,
Trump
remains
the
villain
—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:52:08 PM -0400
Subject: Re: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] >;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

Yes indeed, that is so true, as we have been learning lately in the political arena as well. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 20, 2021, at 13:50, Roberts, Rich [b6] > 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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] gov >
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Fwd: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

EXTERNAL SENDER

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen Goraleski [b6]
Date: May 20, 2021 at 12:28:25 EDT
To: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6] >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < [b6], "Dan Bausch [b6] "Julie Jacobso [b6] "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" [b6] "Hill, David R. Prof." [b6] Christine Petersen [b6] Stephen Popper [b6] >, Patricia Walker < [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019799
MORENS_NIH_039534
REL0000479411

Subject: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Sharing this fyi - adding in David Morens, the lead author on the AJTMH article on this same topic (BTW, the #1 accessed article in AJTMH last month) and Stephen Popper, the Associate Program Chair.

This is from POLITICO. See links to the letter in SCIENCE, to Donald McNeal's piece in MEDIUM.

https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico- nightly/2021/05/19/experts- weigh-in-on-the-wuhan-lab-leak-hypothesis-492915

Experts weigh in on the Wuhan lab leak hypothesis

By MYAH WARD and RENUKA RAYASAM

05/19/2021 08:00 PM EDT

Presented by Facebook

With help from Joanne Kenen

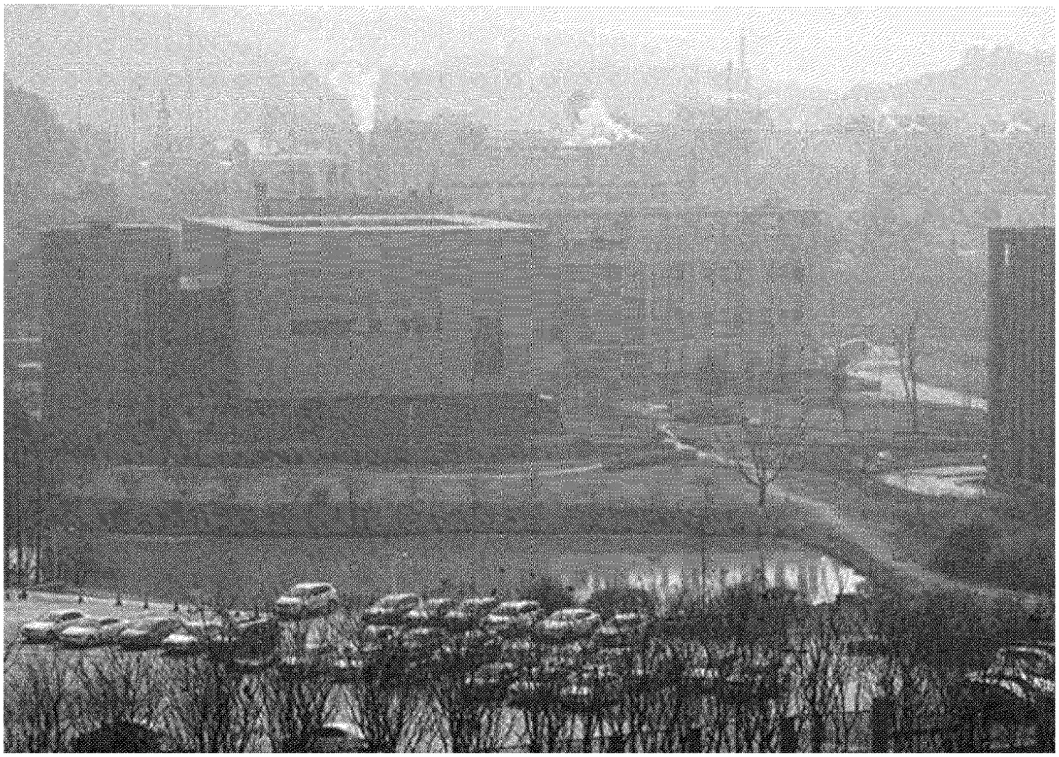
ORIGIN STORY — The hypothesis that Covid-19 was leaked from a Wuhan lab has leaped from its original host — Trump administration officials and people dismissed as conspiracy theorists — into the body of mainstream debate. Last week, 18 leading scientists published a letter in the academic journal Science calling for further investigation to determine the origin of the pandemic that has killed 3.4 million people worldwide. "Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover both remain viable," the scientists wrote.

The letter echoes a similar call from WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019800
MORENS_NIH_039535
REL0000479411

former New York Times science reporters Nicholas Wade and Donald G. McNeil Jr. have written long essays on Medium outlining why they take the lab leak hypothesis seriously.

Nightly reached out to experts, two of whom signed the letter as well as others who have taken the opposite side in the public debate, to ask how credible they find the lab leak theory. Their edited responses are below.



A view of the P4 lab inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology is seen after a visit by the World Health Organization team in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. | AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

IT'S POSSIBLE

"Much of the currently available information suggests that a lab-based origin of Covid-19 is plausible. **There remains no sign of an intermediate animal host that could have passed the virus to humans in 2019.** There is no evidence that live mammals were sold at

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019801
MORENS_NIH_039536
REL0000479411

the Wuhan seafood market in 2019, and none of hundreds of animal samples collected from that market had any trace of the virus. In other words, there is zero evidence that supports a zoonotic origin of the virus that excludes the involvement of research activity.

"There are copious precedents of pathogens leaking from labs — the original 2003 SARS virus leaked up to six times from labs across three countries. Consider that the SARS research and animal infection experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, for more than 10 years, were all performed at relatively low biosafety levels. It is currently not possible to tell from the genetic evidence whether the virus ever passed through a laboratory or a lab personnel.

"The question is: How did a virus, whose lineage is found only in southern China, make its way into humans in the metropolitan city of Wuhan, more than a thousand miles away? We know that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had possibly the greatest collection of SARS viruses from numerous trips across China. We know that they were working with a batch of viruses very closely related to SARS-CoV-2. Details of these viruses and the experiments performed with them have not been shared in a timely manner." **— Alina Chan, molecular biologist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**

"It is worthy of a careful, rigorous, unbiased, objective examination, based on relevant, verifiable data. There are a number of plausible scenarios embedded in

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019802
MORENS_NIH_039537
REL0000479411

this label, 'lab leak,' and importantly, they include an unrecognized infection of a well-intentioned lab worker attempting to recover or study new coronaviruses from bats. **It does not imply malice or even necessarily awareness (of the accident).** Lab accidents are much more common than any of us know, or would like to admit, and they occur worldwide and even in the most safe and secure labs. U.S. biosafety labs are by no means strangers to accidents; leaks of some of the most dangerous infectious agents have occurred at CDC and other U.S. government labs."
— David A. Relman, microbiologist at Stanford University

"The following lines of circumstantial evidence are noteworthy:

"**The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people that does not contain horseshoe-bat colonies,** and that is tens of kilometers from, and outside the flight range of, the nearest known horseshoe-bat colonies. Furthermore, the outbreak occurred at a time of year when horseshoe bats are in hibernation.

"The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, on the doorstep of the laboratory that conducts the world's largest research project on horseshoe bat viruses and worked with the world's closest sequenced relative of the outbreak virus. The laboratory actively searched for new horseshoe-bat viruses in horseshoe-bat colonies in caves in remote rural areas in Yunnan province, brought those new horseshoe-bat viruses to Wuhan, and then mass-produced, manipulated, and studied those new horseshoe-bat viruses,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019803
MORENS_NIH_039538
REL0000479411

year-round, inside Wuhan.

"Documentary evidence establishes that the bat-SARS-related-coronavirus projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology used personal protective equipment (usually just gloves; sometimes not even gloves) and biosafety standards that would pose high risk of infection of field-collection, field-survey, or laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2." **— Richard Ebright, molecular biologist at Rutgers University**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019804
MORENS_NIH_039539
REL0000479411

Date: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 5:27:44 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 5:23:40 PM -0400
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png

Good – because they lay into him as well.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >; David Morens <[b6]
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

I just emailed Jeremy Farrar to ask him WTF is going on with BMJ?

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens <[b6]
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

I think this is a really good move. The BMJ was a well-respected journal that also did 'news-ey' type articles for physicians, but this is just a garbage pro-lab leak innuendo-filled piece that openly attacks EcoHealth and my name. The following comments are not factual reporting – more hype and character assassination, all of them implying my intent to act nefariously:

"Daszak effectively silenced debate"

"Some of the scientists in this area very quickly closed ranks."

"Daszak's behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating the statement in the *Lancet*"

"as journalists helped to amplify Daszak's message and to silence scientific and public debate."

"This, he says, is why they began marching in unison behind Daszak."

"WHO and the *Lancet* both launched investigations last year (box 2), but Daszak was involved in both, and neither has made significant progress."

Pretty offensive stuff and a regurgitation of earlier crap written by the same author on the web. I guess BMJ gets value out of this because it directly criticizes tht Lancet – their main competitor. What a ridiculous conflict of interest they're displaying themselves!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Do any of you know what has become of Peter Smith, a former editor of BMJ? I would like to contact him about what has happened to a formerly quality journal, in fact more highly regarded than the Lancet.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Really disappointed they gave space to this scheister – he's been trolling the internet darkweb with lab leak theories for at least a year.

Peter Hotez commented that BMJ has been putting out anti-vaxx articles too recently…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020872
MORENS_NIH_041637
REL0000479418

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

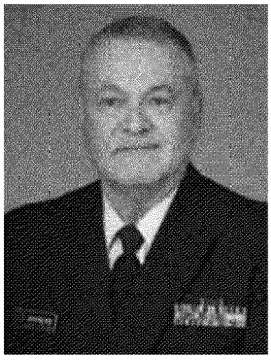
---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry b6
b6
Subject: FW: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?



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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:43 AM
Subject: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

BMJ 2021; 374 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n1656 (Published 08 July 2021) Cite this as: BMJ 2021;374:n1656 Paul D Thacker, investigative journalist

- *Madrid*

- thackerpd{at}gmail.com
  Twitter @thackerpd

The theory that SARS-CoV-2 may have originated in a lab was considered a debunked conspiracy theory, but some experts are revisiting it amid calls for a new, more thorough investigation. **Paul Thacker** explains the dramatic U turn and the role of contemporary science journalism

For most of 2020, the notion that SARS-CoV-2 may have originated in a lab in Wuhan, China, was treated as a thoroughly debunked conspiracy theory. Only conservative news media sympathetic to President Donald Trump and a few lonely reports dared suggest otherwise. But that all changed in the early months of 2021, and today most outlets across the political spectrum agree: the "lab leak" scenario deserves serious investigation.

Understanding this dramatic U turn on arguably the most important question for preventing a future pandemic, and why it took nearly a year to happen, involves understanding contemporary science journalism.

A conspiracy to label critics as conspiracy theorists

Scientists and reporters contacted by *The BMJ* say that objective consideration of covid-19's origins went awry early in the pandemic, as researchers who were funded to study viruses with pandemic potential launched a campaign labelling the lab leak hypothesis as a "conspiracy theory."

A leader in this campaign has been Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit organisation given millions of dollars in grants by the US federal government to research viruses for pandemic preparedness.1 Over the years EcoHealth Alliance has subcontracted out its federally supported research to various scientists and groups, including around $600 000 (£434 000; €504 000) to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. 1

Shortly after the pandemic began, Daszak effectively silenced debate over the possibility of a lab leak with a February 2020 statement in the *Lancet*.2 "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that covid-19 does not have a natural origin," said the letter, which listed Daszak as one of 27 coauthors. Daszak did not respond to repeated requests for comment from *The BMJ*.

"It's become a label you pin on something you don't agree with," says Nicholas Wade, a science writer who has worked at *Nature*, *Science*, and the *New York Times*. "It's ridiculous, because the lab escape scenario invokes an accident, which is the opposite of a conspiracy."

But the effort to brand serious consideration of a lab leak a "conspiracy theory" only ramped up. Filippa Lentzos, codirector of the Centre for Science and Security Studies at King's College, London, told the *Wall Street Journal*, "Some of the scientists in this area very quickly closed ranks."3 She added, "There were people that did not talk about this, because they feared for their careers. They feared for their grants."

Daszak had support. After he wrote an essay for the *Guardian* in June 2020 attacking the former head of MI6 for saying that the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020874
MORENS_NIH_041639
REL0000479418

pandemic could have "started as an accident," Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust and co-signer of the *Lancet* letter, promoted Daszak's essay on Twitter, saying that Daszak was "always worth reading."[4]

Daszak's behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating the statement in the *Lancet* came to light in November 2020 in emails obtained through freedom of information requests by the watchdog group US Right To Know.

"Please note that this statement will not have EcoHealth Alliance logo on it and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization or person," wrote Daszak in a February email, while sending around a draft of the statement for signatories.[5] In another email, Daszak considered removing his name from the statement "so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way."[6]

Several of the 27 scientists who signed the letter Daszak circulated did so using other professional affiliations and omitted reporting their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.[3]

For Richard Ebright, professor of molecular biology at Rutgers University in New Jersey and a biosafety expert, scientific journals were complicit in helping to shout down any mention of a lab leak. "That means *Nature*, *Science*, and the *Lancet*," he says. In recent months he and dozens of academics have signed several open letters rejecting conspiracy theory accusations and calling for an open investigation of the pandemic's origins.[7][8][9]

"It's very clear at this time that the term 'conspiracy theory' is a useful term for defaming an idea you disagree with," says Ebright, referring to scientists and journalists who have wielded the term. "They have been successful until recently in selling that narrative to many in the media."

The *Lancet*'s editor in chief, Richard Horton, did not respond to repeated requests for comment but, after *The BMJ* had sent him questions, the *Lancet* expanded Daszak's conflicts of interest on the February statement and recused him from working on its task force looking into the pandemic's origin.[10][11]

The *Lancet* letter ultimately helped to guide almost a year of reporting, as journalists helped to amplify Daszak's message and to silence scientific and public debate. "We're in the midst of the social media misinformation age, and these rumours and conspiracy theories have real consequences," Daszak told *Science*.[12] Months later in *Nature*, he again criticised "conspiracies" that the virus could have come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology and complained about "politically motivated organisations" requesting his emails.[13]

That summer *Scientific American*, one of the oldest and best known popular science magazines in America, published a complimentary profile of Daszak's colleague, Shi Zhengli, a centre director at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which has been funded by EcoHealth Alliance.[14]

EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology earned additional sympathetic reporting after the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) cancelled its grant to EcoHealth Alliance in April last year—allegedly on President Trump's order—because of its ties to Wuhan, a decision protested by 77 Nobel laureates and 31 scientific societies.[15] (The NIH has subsequently awarded EcoHealth Alliance new funding.)

Efforts to characterise the lab leak scenario as unworthy of serious consideration were far reaching, sometimes affecting reporting that had first appeared well before the covid-19 pandemic. For example, in March 2020 *Nature Medicine* added an editor's note ("Scientists believe that an animal is the most likely source of the coronavirus") to a 2015 paper on the creation of a hybrid version of a SARS virus, co-written by Shi.[16]

Wade explains, "Science journalists differ a lot from other journalists in that they are far less sceptical of their sources and they see their main role as simply to explain science to the public." This, he says, is why they began marching in unison behind Daszak.

The U turn

By the end of 2020, just a handful of journalists had dared to seriously discuss the possibility of a lab leak. In September, *Boston* magazine reported on a preprint that found the virus unlikely to have come from the Wuhan seafood market, as Daszak has argued, and that it seemed too well adapted to humans to have arisen naturally. However, the story failed to garner much attention, similarly to a little noticed investigative report by the Associated Press in December that exposed how the Chinese government was clamping down on research into covid-19's origins.

In January this year, *New York* magazine ran a sprawling story detailing how the pandemic could have started with a leak from the lab in Wuhan. The hypothetical scenario: "SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes covid-19, began its existence inside a bat, then it learned how to infect people in a claustrophobic mine shaft, and then it was made more infectious in one or more laboratories, perhaps as part of a scientist's well-intentioned but risky effort to create a broad-spectrum vaccine." Scientists and their media allies swiftly criticised the article.

But mainstream outlets from the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post* are now treating the lab leak hypothesis as a worthy question, one to be answered with a serious investigation. In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, Shi denied that her lab was ever involved in "gain of function" experiments (box 1) that enhance a virus's virulence. But the newspaper reported that her lab had been involved in experiments that altered the transmissibility of viruses, alongside interviews with scientists who said that far more transparency was necessary to determine the truth of SARS-CoV-2's origins.[17]

Box 1

What is "gain of function" research?

After two teams genetically tweaked the H5N1 avian flu virus in 2011 to make it more transmissible in mammals, biosafety experts voiced concerns about "gain of function" research—experimental research that involves altering microbes in ways that

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020875
MORENS_NIH_041640
REL0000479418

change their transmissibility, pathogenicity, or host range.

In the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* in 2012, Lynn Klotz predicted an 80% chance that a leak of a potential pandemic pathogen would occur sometime in the next 12 years. Two years later a Harvard epidemiologist, Marc Lipsitch, founded the Cambridge Working Group to lobby against such experiments.

At that time, three safety lapses involving dangerous pathogens led to a safety crackdown at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lipsitch later argued in 2018 that the release of such a pathogen would "lead to global spread of a virulent virus, a biosafety incident on a scale never before seen."

Gain of function research was briefly paused because of these concerns, although critics debate as to when it restarted. For more than a decade, scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology have been discovering coronaviruses in bats in southern China and bringing them back to their lab for gain of function research, to learn how to deal with such a deadly virus should it arise in nature.

The closest known relative of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was found in a region of China almost 1000 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology—yet the pandemic apparently started in Wuhan. Biosafety experts have noted that lab leaks are common but rarely reported, as hundreds of lab accidents had happened in the US alone.27

RETURN TO TEXT

Two major events are probably responsible for the media's change in tune. First, Trump was no longer president. Because Trump had said that the virus could have come from a Wuhan lab, Daszak and others used him as a convenient foil to attack their critics. But the framing of the lab leak hypothesis as a partisan issue was harder to sustain after Trump left the White House.

Second, after months of negotiation the Chinese government finally allowed the World Health Organization to come to Wuhan and investigate the pandemic's origin. But in January 2021 WHO, which included Daszak on the team, returned with no evidence that the virus had arisen through natural spill-over.18 More worryingly, members were allowed only a few hours of supervised access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The White House then released a statement making clear that it did not trust China's propaganda denying that the virus could have come from one of the country's labs. "We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the covid-19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach them," said the statement. "It is imperative that this report be independent, with expert findings free from intervention or alteration by the Chinese government."

The following month the *Washington Post* editorial board called for an open and transparent investigation of the virus's origins, highlighting Shi's experiments with bat coronaviruses that were genetically very similar to the one that caused the pandemic.19 It asked, "Could a worker have gotten infected or inadvertent leakage have touched off the outbreak in Wuhan?" The *Wall Street Journal*, citing a US intelligence document, recently reported that three Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers were admitted to hospital in November 2019.20

To follow any US financial ties and to better understand how the pandemic started, Republicans have launched investigations of government agencies that fund coronavirus research, and one investigative committee has sent a letter to Daszak at EcoHealth Alliance demanding that he turn over documents. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans and Democrats have started to discuss an independent investigation of the virus's origins.

A hard truth to swallow

The growing tendency to treat the lab leak scenario as worthy of serious investigation has put some reporters on the defensive. After Robert Redfield, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, appeared on CNN in March, *Scientific American*'s editor in chief, Laura Helmuth, tweeted, "On CNN, former CDC director Robert Redfield shared the conspiracy theory that the virus came from the Wuhan lab." The following day, *Scientific American* ran an essay calling the lab leak theory "evidence free." And a week later a *Nature* reporter, Amy Maxmen, labelled the idea that the virus could have leaked from a lab as "conjecture."

Helmuth did not respond to questions from *The BMJ*.

Some media outlets have attempted to justify their past reporting about the lab leak hypothesis as simply a matter of tracking a "scientific consensus" which, they say, has now changed. *Vox* posted an erratum noting, "Since this piece was originally published in March 2020, scientific consensus has shifted."

The "scientific consensus" argument does not sit well with David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, California. "We can't even begin to talk about a consensus other than a consensus that we don't know [the origins of SARS-CoV-2]," he recently told the *Washington Post*.21

A year lost

While the narrative took months to change in the media, several high profile intelligence sources had treated the lab leak theory seriously from early on. In April 2020, Avril Haines joined two other former deputy directors of the Central Intelligence Agency to write an essay in *Foreign Policy* asking, "To what extent did the Chinese government misrepresent the scope and scale of the epidemic?"22 A week later, one of the former intelligence officials who wrote that essay gave similar quotes to *Politico*.

Ignoring these early warnings led to a year of biased, failed reporting, says Wade. "They didn't question what their sources were saying," he says of the reporters who helped to sell the conspiracy theory narrative to the public. "That is the simple explanation for this phenomenon."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020876
MORENS_NIH_041641
REL0000479418

An impartial, credible investigation?

As the news media scramble to correct and reflect on what went wrong with nearly a year of reporting, the episode has also highlighted quality control issues at the ubiquitous "fact checking" services.

Prominent outlets such as *PolitiFact*[23] and FactCheck.org[24] have added editor's notes to pieces that previously "debunked" the idea that the virus was created in a lab or could have been bioengineered—softening their position to one of an open question that is "in dispute." For almost a year Facebook sought to control misinformation by banning stories suggesting that the coronavirus was man made. After renewed interest in the virus's origin, Facebook lifted the ban.[25]

Whether a credible investigation will be made into the lab leak scenario remains to be seen. WHO and the *Lancet* both launched investigations last year (box 2), but Daszak was involved in both, and neither has made significant progress.

Box 2

Timeline

2019

September Weeks before the pandemic erupts, Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome Trust) and Anthony Fauci (US National Institutes of Health; NIH) help oversee a World Health Organization report highlighting an "increasing risk of global pandemic from a pathogen escaping after being engineered in a lab"

November Three researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology are admitted to hospital, says a previously undisclosed US intelligence document reported by the *Wall Street Journal* on 23 May 2021

31 December China notifies WHO of "cases of pneumonia of unknown aetiology" in Wuhan City

2020

1 February Jeremy Farrar holds a teleconference with Anthony Fauci and others to discuss the outbreak's origins

6 February A commentary from Chinese researchers based in Wuhan, arguing that "the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan," is posted and later removed from ResearchGate (the user account "Botao Xiao" is also deleted)

19 February An open letter is published in the *Lancet* from 27 scientists including Peter Daszak and Jeremy Farrar, who "strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that covid-19 does not have a natural origin"

19 February*Science* magazine reports: "Scientists 'strongly condemn' rumors and conspiracy theories about origin of coronavirus outbreak," quoting Daszak as saying, "We're in the midst of the social media misinformation age, and these rumors and conspiracy theories have real consequences, including threats of violence that have occurred to our colleagues in China."

22 February*New York Post* publishes an article by a China scholar arguing that "coronavirus may have leaked from a lab"—subsequently censored by Facebook

6 March Kristian Andersen (Scripps Research Institute) thanks Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome), Anthony Fauci (NIH), and Francis Collins (NIH) "for your advice and leadership as we have been working through the SARS-CoV-2 'origins' paper." The paper is published on 17 March in *Nature Medicine* and states, "Our analyses clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus."

24 April NIH abruptly cuts funding to EcoHealth Alliance, allegedly on President Trump's order

28 April Three former US intelligence agents write in *Foreign Policy* asking whether the virus emerged from nature or escaped from a Chinese lab

21 May*New York Times* depicts the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a victim of "conspiracy theories"

27 May*Nature* reports the lab leak hypothesis as "coronavirus misinformation" and "false information"

8 June The science magazine *Undark* reports that the lab leak is a conspiracy theory "that's been broadly discredited"

30 December Associated Press investigation finds documents from March 2020 showing how Beijing has shaped and censored research into the origins of SARS-CoV-2

2021

February Facebook places warning on an article by Ian Birrell about the origins of covid-19. Facebook says that these warnings reduce article viewership by 95%

13 February Jake Sullivan, US national security adviser, expresses "deep concerns" about WHO's covid-19 investigation, calling on China to be more transparent

March*Washington Post* calls for serious investigations of the lab leak hypothesis

30 March WHO releases a report on its investigation into the origins of covid-19, listing the lab leak as least likely of the possible scenarios considered. Hours earlier, WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, acknowledged that the lab leak hypothesis should "remain on the table" and called for a more extensive probe

30 March The US, Australian, Japanese, Canadian, UK, and other governments express concern over WHO's investigation and call for "transparent and independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence"

26 May Facebook lifts its ban on posts referencing the lab leak hypothesis

RETURN TO TEXT

In recent weeks, several high profile scientists who once denigrated the idea that the virus could have come from a lab have made small steps into demanding an open investigation of the pandemic's origin.

The NIH's director, Francis Collins, said in a recent interview, "The Chinese government should be on notice that we have to have answers to questions that have not been answered about those people who got sick in November who worked in the lab and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020877
MORENS_NIH_041642
REL0000479418

about those lab notebooks that have not been examined." He added, "If they really want to be exonerated from this claim of culpability, then they have got to be transparent."26
But the nature of this investigation has still not been decided.

Footnotes

- Competing interests: I am paid by various media outlets for journalism stories and consult part time for a non-profit institute focused on brain disorders. I run a newsletter called the *Disinformation Chronicle*.
- Provenance and peer review: Commissioned, not externally peer reviewed.

This article is made freely available for use in accordance with BMJ's website terms and conditions for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic or until otherwise determined by BMJ. You may use, download and print the article for any lawful, non-commercial purpose (including text and data mining) provided that all copyright notices and trade marks are retained.
https://bmj.com/coronavirus/usage

References

- ↵
  USA Spending. Project Grant FAIN R01AI110964. https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AI110964_7529

- ↵
  - Calisher C,
  - Carroll D,
  - Colwell R,
  - et al

  . *Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19. Lancet2020;395:e42-3. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30418-9. pmid:32087122*
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  O'Neal A. A scientist who said no to covid groupthink. *Wall Street J* 2021 Jun 11. https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-scientist-who-said-no-to-covid-groupthink-11623430659

- ↵
  Farrar J. Twitter. 9 Jun 2020. https://twitter.com/JeremyFarrar/status/1270354946295246848

- ↵
  Daszak P. Email. 6 Feb 2020. https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The_Lancet_Emails_Daszak-2.6.20.pdf

- ↵
  Baric R. Email. 6 Feb 2020. https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Baric_Daszak_email.pdf

- ↵
  Gorman J. Some scientists question W.H.O. inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic's origins. *New York Times* 2021 Mar 4. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/04/health/covid-virus-origins.html

- ↵
  Calls for further inquiries into coronavirus origins. *New York Times* 2021 Apr 7. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/04/07/science/virus-inquiries-pandemic-origins.html?referringSource=articleShare

- ↵
  - doi:10.1126/science.abj0016
  - Bloom JD,
  - Chan YA,
  - Baric RS,
  - et al

  . *Investigate the origins of COVID-19. Science2021;372:694doi:10.1126/science.abj0016.*
  https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6543/694.1 .pmid:33986172
  OpenUrlFREE Full Text

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020878
MORENS_NIH_041643
REL0000479418

- ↵
  Addendum: competing interests and the origins of SARS-CoV-2. Lancet2021;397:2449-50. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140- 6736(21)01377-5/fulltext*doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01377-5.*
  OpenUrlCrossRef

- ↵
  Lancet Covid-19 Commission. Origins, early spread of the pandemic, and one health solutions to future pandemic threats. https://covid19commission.org/origins- of-the-pandemic

- ↵
  - Cohen J

  . Scientists "strongly condemn" rumors and conspiracy theories about origin of coronavirus outbreak. Science2020. doi:10.1126/science.abb3730.
  OpenUrlCrossRef

- ↵
  - Subbaraman N

  . 'Heinous!': Coronavirus researcher shut down for Wuhan-lab link slams new funding restrictions. Nature2020. doi:10.1038/d41586-020-02473-4. pmid:32826989
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  Qiu J. How China's "Bat Woman" hunted down viruses from SARS to the new coronavirus. *Scientific American* 2020 Jun 1. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how- chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/

- ↵
  Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant. *Science* 2020 May 21. https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/preposterous- 77-nobel-laureates-blast-nih-decision-cancel-coronavirus-grant-demand

- ↵
  - Menachery VD,
  - Yount BL Jr.,
  - Debbink K,
  - et al

  . A SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence. Nat Med2015;21:1508-13. doi:10.1038/nm.3985. https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985 . pmid:26552008
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  A top virologist in China, at center of a pandemic storm, speaks out. *New York Times* 2021 Jun 15. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/14/world/asia/china- covid-wuhan-lab-leak.html

- ↵
  World Health Organization. Mission summary: WHO field visit to Wuhan, China 20-21 January 2020. 22 Jan 2020. https://www.who.int/china/news/detail/22- 01-2020-field-visit-wuhan-china-jan-2020

- ↵
  Opinion: The WHO needs to start over in investigating the origins of the coronavirus. *Washington Post* 2021 Mar 6. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global- opinions/the-who-needs-to-start-over-in-investigating-the-origins-of-the-coronavirus/2021/03/05/6f3d5a0e- 7de9-11eb-a976-c028a4215c78_story.html

- ↵
  Gordon MR, Strobel WP, Hinshaw D. Intelligence on sick staff at Wuhan lab fuels debate on covid-19 origin. *Wall Street J* 2021 May 23. https://www.wsj.com/articles/intelligence- on-sick-staff-at-wuhan-lab-fuels-debate-on-covid-19-origin-11621796228

-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020879
MORENS_NIH_041644
REL0000479418

- ↵
  Dou E, Kuo L. A scientist adventurer and China's "Bat Woman" are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look. *Washington Post* 2021 Jun 3. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/coronavirus- bats-china-wuhan/2021/06/02/772ef984- beb2-11eb-922a-c40c9774bc48_story.html

- ↵
  Morell M, Haines A, Cohen DS. Trump's politicization of US intelligence agencies could end in disaster. *Foreign Policy* 2020 Apr 28. https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/28/trump- cia-intimidation-politicization-us-intelligence-agencies-could-end-in-disaster/

- ↵
  Archived fact-check: Tucker Carlson guest airs debunked conspiracy theory that covid-19 was created in a lab. *PolitiFact* 2021 May 17. https://www.politifact.com/li- meng-yan-fact-check/

- ↵
  Fichera A. Report resurrects baseless claim that coronavirus was bioengineered. FactCheck.org. 17 Sep 2020. https://www.factcheck.org/2020/09/report- resurrects-baseless-claim-that-coronavirus-was-bioengineered/

- ↵
  Lima C. Facebook no longer treating "man-made" covid as a crackpot idea. *Politico* 2021 May 26. https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/facebook- ban-covid-man-made-491053

- ↵
  Trump administration's hunt for pandemic "lab leak" went down many paths and came up with no smoking gun. *Washington Post* 2021 Jun 15. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national- security/us-intelligence-wuhan-lab-coronavirus-origin/2021/06/15/2fc2425e- ca24-11eb-afd0-9726f7ec0ba6_story.html

- ↵
  Young A. Could an accident have caused covid-19? Why the Wuhan lab-leak theory shouldn't be dismissed. *USA Today* 2021 Mar 22. https://eu.usatoday.com/in- depth/opinion/2021/03/22/why- covid-lab-leak-theory-wuhan-shouldnt-dismissed-column/4765985001/

View Abstract

- Tweet Widget
- Facebook Like

See other articles in issue 8299

Article tools

PDF0 responses

- Respond to this article
- Print
- Alerts & updates
- Citation tools
- Request permissions

- Author citation

- Add article to BMJ Portfolio

Email to a friend

Topics

- Infectious diseases

- UK jobs
- International jobs

Grove House Surgery (Shepton Mallet, Somerset): Salaried GP
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry CMHT
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Inpatient

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020880
MORENS_NIH_041645
REL0000479418

Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Liaison
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Community General Adult Psychiatry - Bournemouth West
View more

This week's poll

Read related article
See previous polls
Back to top

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:07 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:25 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Date: Wed, May 3, 2023 at 5:59 PM
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
To: Hall, Mary Ann b6 >, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >

I would certainly make the time for a Zoom call. I don't think I will be able to join in person.

Jerry

From: Hall, Mary Ann b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb0dd4b36cbad4a27c79008db8a10ae70%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=ACiTwDvsOoQWEHh1fuPJbxLXBmy6YWC%2BLi4P9UfeHYk%3D &reserved=0

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Rich Roberts b6 >; Hall, Mary Ann b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date:	Tue, 27 Jul 2021 2:19:59 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 27 Jul 2021 2:18:30 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

No – keep them coming – I miss some of these and I like to be aware.

It's also a chance for me to fill you in on any background if I've heard anything – can be useful given both of your positions…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
Subject: RE: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru

I probably shouldn't even send you this sort of crap, but just want to give you a heads up from a friendly source, before someone blind-sides you. If you have a cat, you can use this paper to line the kitty litter box…..

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022822
MORENS_NIH_043826
REL0000479422

Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Subject: RE: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru

This is part of a continuing saga of BS that's something to do with how when you use a certain type of sequencing machine, you get partial bleeds from other samples including previously used. It's extremely common and not at all interesting. It's also not a 'menagerie of viruses' – these are cDNA read outs from a sequencer (or something).

I checked this out previous with Eddie Holmes, Kristian Andersen and a bunch of other well-known virology genetics folks. These people are really scraping the bottom of the barrel!

Worst of all, it's a preprint, which means it might actually get published somewhere and sully the scientific system. It happened with another paper a few weeks ago that was published in American Chemical Society transactions or something. Zhengli, Linfa, Angela Rasmussen, Bob Garry and me wrote in demanding it be retracted – we'll see how that goes…

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022823
MORENS_NIH_043827
REL0000479422

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

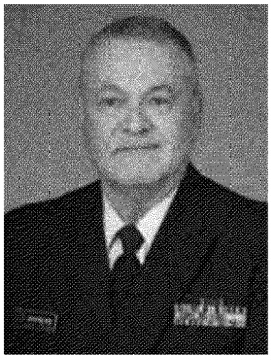
---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>
b6
Subject: FW: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru



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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:37 PM
Subject: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru

Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Virus, a BSL-4 pathogen more lethal than Ebola

News provided by
Dr. Steven Quay
Jul 26, 2021, 09:00 ET

SEATTLE, July 26, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Physician-Scientist Steven Quay and a group of international scientists have published a pre-print, available here, entitled, "CONTAMINATION OR VACCINE RESEARCH? RNA Sequencing data of early COVID-19 patient samples show abnormal presence of vectorized H7N9 hemagglutinin segment." In the paper, a forensic examination of the sequencing data from five COVID-19 bronchial lavage patient specimens reveals that the laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) was contaminated with a wide range of viruses, including Nipah virus genes in a cloning vector. Nipah is a BSL-4 pathogen with a lethality of 50% to 92%. A video summary of the paper can be found here.
The highlights of the paper are:

- Five patient specimens were sequenced by the WIV in December 2019 and were part of an early report on SARS-CoV-2 published by Dr. Zhengli Shi and colleagues (Nature 579, 270–273 (2020). This paper has been viewed over one million times, making it one of the most highly read papers on the pandemic virus.
- The most abundant contaminant is an undisclosed H7N9 influenza vaccine, which in one specimen is over six-times as abundant as SARS-CoV-2.
- The Nipah virus gene sequences were found in infectious cloning vectors of the type used for genetic manipulation.
- Nineteen other contaminants, including Japanese Encephalitis virus, HIV, human T-cell leukemia virus, and hepatitis delta virus were found.

"It was surprising to find a menagerie of deadly viruses, strange pathogens, and even honeysuckle, plant genes in patient

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022825
MORENS_NIH_043829
REL0000479422

specimens sequenced at the WIV in December 2019, especially since this patient sequencing data has been publicly available to the entire scientific community inside of the US NIH GenBank database since February 2020," stated Dr. Steven Quay, MD, PhD. "The apparent widespread contamination of the laboratory at the very time the pandemic was just beginning is of course worrisome. But more important is getting answers to these questions: Why do these patient specimens contain an unreported influenza vaccine? What was the purpose of creating an undisclosed, apparently infectious clone of the deadly Nipah virus? Is this Nipah research part of another gain-of-function research project at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?"

About the Nipah Virus

Nipah virus, scientific name *Nipah henipavirus*, is a bat-borne virus that causes an infection in humans and other animals, with a high mortality rate. Numerous disease outbreaks caused by Nipah virus have occurred in South and Southeast Asia. Symptoms from infection vary from none to fever, cough, headache, shortness of breath, and confusion. This may worsen into a coma over a day or two, and 50% to 92% of those infected die. Complications can include inflammation of the brain and seizures following recovery. At this time there is no specific treatment for Nipah virus infection nor is there a vaccine..

About Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Steven Quay has over 360 published contributions to medicine and has been cited over 10,500 times, placing him in the top 1% of scientists worldwide. He holds 87 US patents and has invented seven FDA-approved pharmaceuticals which have been prescribed to over 80 million people. He is the author of the best-selling book on surviving the pandemic, Stay Safe: A Physician's Guide to Survive Coronavirus. He is the CEO of Atossa Therapeutics Inc. (Nasdaq: ATOS), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics for oncology and infectious diseases.

He received his M.D. and Ph.D. from The University of Michigan, was a postdoctoral fellow in the Chemistry Department at MIT with Nobel Laureate H. Gobind Khorana, a resident at the Harvard-MGH Hospital, and spent almost a decade on the faculty of Stanford University School of Medicine. A TEDx talk he delivered on breast cancer prevention has been viewed over 220,000 times. His scientific manuscript entitled, "A Bayesian analysis concludes beyond a reasonable doubt that SARS-CoV-2 is not a natural zoonosis but instead is laboratory derived," has been viewed over 175,000-times. For more information, visit www.DrQuay.com

Public Relations Contact:
Dunn Pellier Media| t: b6
11620 Wilshire Blvd., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025
(b) (6)

SOURCE Dr. Steven Quay

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 20 May 2024 4:09:51 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 May 2024 4:09:20 PM -0400
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald [b6] Alison Andre [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keith Martin [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
CC: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

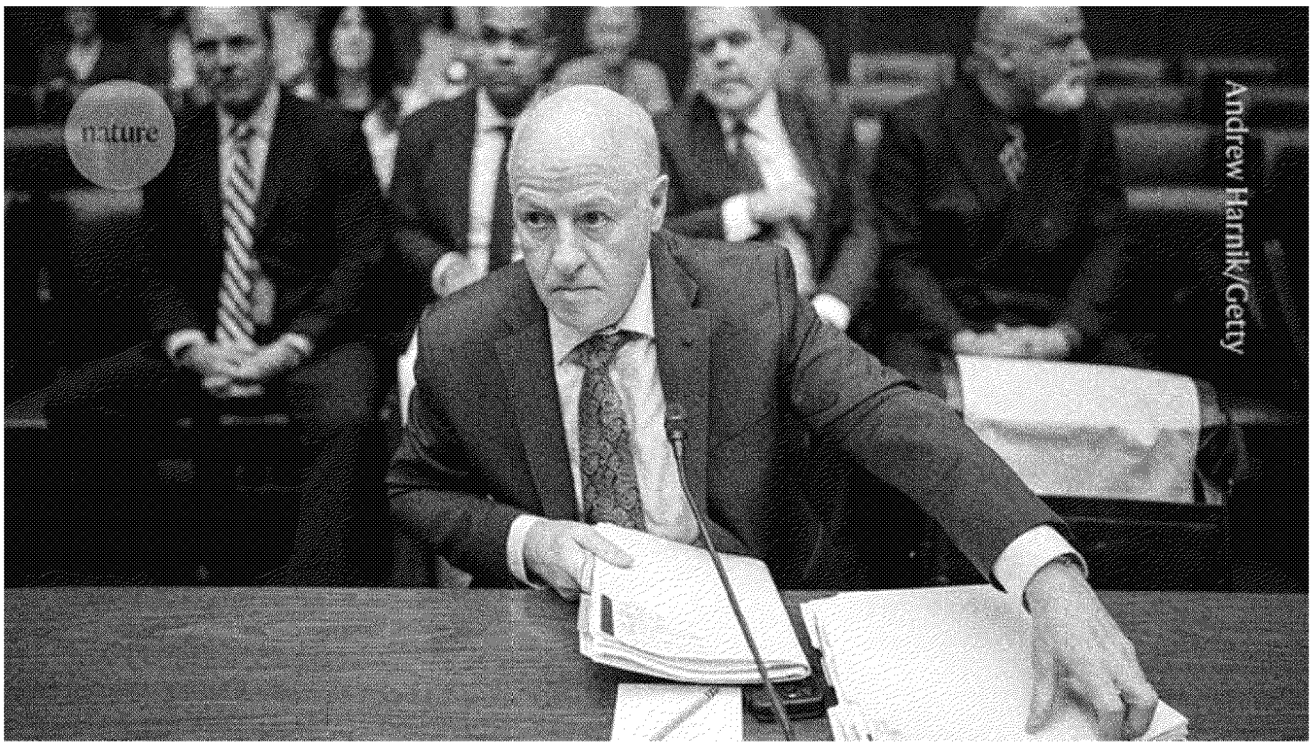
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).



Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless. https://nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.

MORENS_NIH_046714
REL0000479423



US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K



Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' [b6]; Alison Andre [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]; Keith Martin' [b6]; 'Rich Roberts' [b6]
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' [b6]>
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

MORENS_NIH_046716
REL0000479423

From: Keusch, Gerald [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre [b6]; Hotez, Peter Ja[b6]; David Morens [b6]
>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keith Martin [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] Peter
Daszak [b6]; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau [b6] >
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 [b6] >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Keusch, Gerald [b6]; David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey
Sturchio [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Peter
Daszak [b6] Kathy Chase-Gaudreau [b6] >
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

[b6] (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 11:00:10 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 11:00:03 AM -0500
Subject: RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] peter hotez [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Good answer!

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:56 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; peter hotez [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai [b6]

Executive Assistant [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai [b6]

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:47 AM
To: David Morens < [b6]; Peter Daszak < [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T < [b6]; peter hotez < [b6]; Roberts, Ric [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura < [b6]
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 [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]; Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]u>; peter hotez [redacted]
Roberts, Ricl [redacted]; Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted]; Aleksei Chmura <
[redacted]
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]** [redacted]
Date: Thu, Feb 29, 2024, 09:57
Subject: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
To:

Where Did Covid Come From?

New documents bolster the theory that it not only escaped from a laboratory but was developed in one.

By Nicholas Wade
Feb. 28, 2024 12:47 pm ET

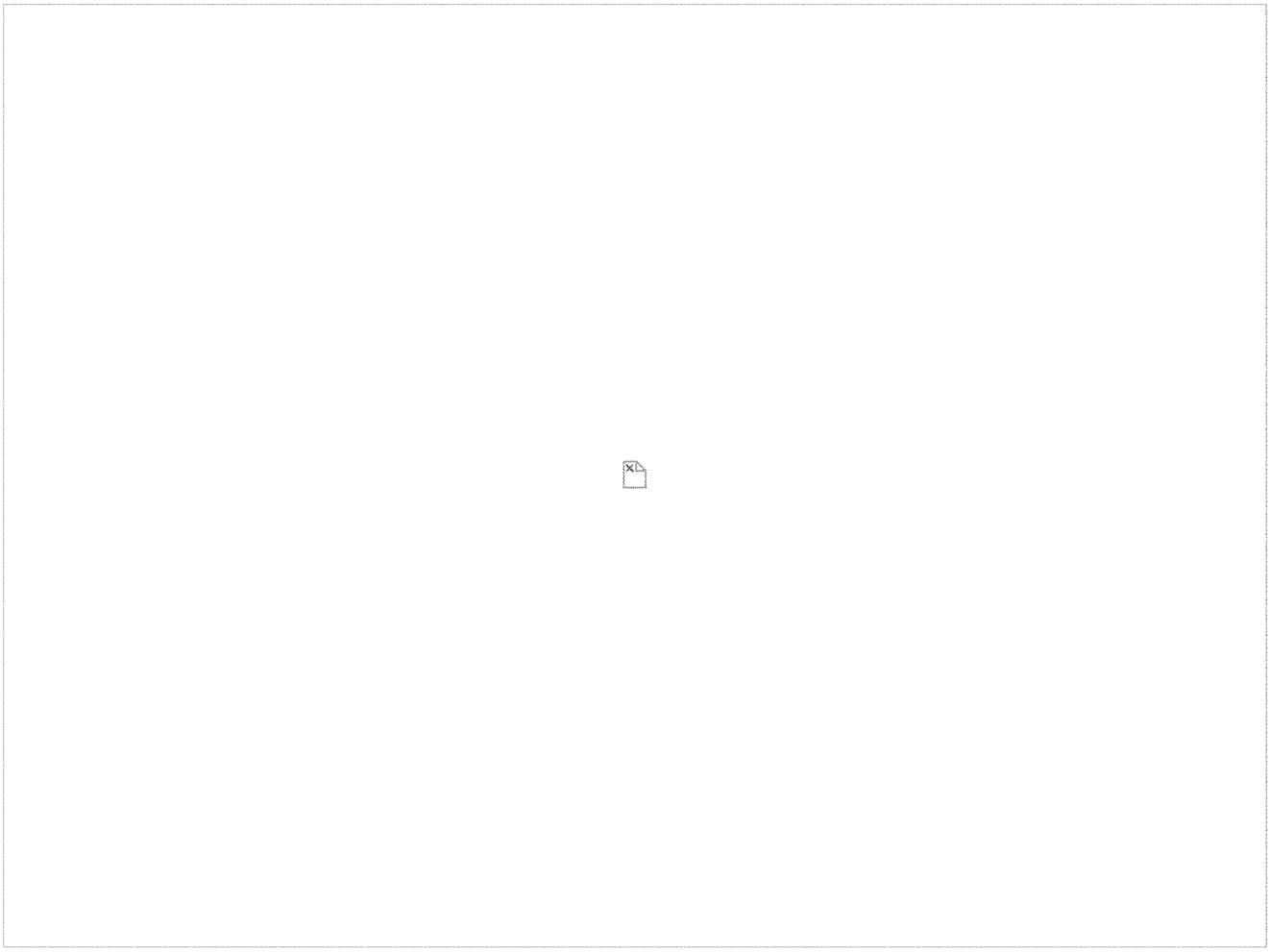


Illustration: Martin Kozlowski

In the four years since the SARS-CoV-2 virus was unleashed on the world, data have steadily accumulated 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

Copyright ©2024 Dow Jones & Company, Inc

Date: Fri, 8 Jul 2022 1:15:11 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 8 Jul 2022 1:11:04 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The latest
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]

Thanks for sending that over – I missed it on my twitter feed. I've just responded to your earlier comments about Dr. Sachs' comments. Ironically, as you show, they're being used by the China foreign ministry to snipe at the US now…. it's multiple layers of bad outcomes from a poorly thought-through comment..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoIHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 5:12 PM
To: Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens < [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: The latest

https://twitter.com/angie_rasmussen/status/1545146644634644480?s=21 &t=a9L8K6T-1aFWQaFOPTBQtQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 10:44:00 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 10:43:57 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Response to Michael Lauer letters
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6 Roberts, Rich b6

Hello all,
I'm going to read the draft shortly and get back to Peter and Aleksei only to keep everybody's comments independent.

Jerry

From: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 10:35 AM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Response to Michael Lauer letters

David,

Peter was planning to send this Michael Lauer on Thursday.

Cheers!

-Aleksei

On Mar 29, 2021, at 10:03, David Morens < b6 > wrote:

Peter, i will go over and get back to you. Do you have a deadline for getting this done? David

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 29, 2021, at 02:15, Peter Daszak < b6 > wrote:

Hi Jerry, David, and Rich

I can't remember which of you offered to review our draft response to Michael Lauer at NIH, but it would be very helpful if one of you could. I'm sending it to my pro bono lawyers as well, and they'll rip into it, but your advice and edits (using track changes) would be most helpful…

By the way, the WHO report comes out Tuesday morning our time (I think).

I'll have a final draft version tomorrow that I'll try to get out to you early.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013091
MORENS_NIH_024877
REL0000479433

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<State Dept Cables re. WIV highlighted.pdf>
<NIH Response to EcoHealth Response to Suspension_10_23_20 Three further demands.pdf>
<Daszak 7 8 20 Reactivation & Suspension with seven demands.pdf>
<Response to NIH April 2021 re. reactivation and suspension of 2R01AI110964.docx >

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:03:45 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:02:15 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Notes from our call
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC: David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

God help us, far right money to shut down virologic research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
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 b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ;
Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017016
MORENS_NIH_035203
REL0000479443

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)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017017
MORENS_NIH_035204
REL0000479443

- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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
b6

Meeting ID: b6
Passcode: b6
One tap mobile
b6 US (New York)
b6 US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

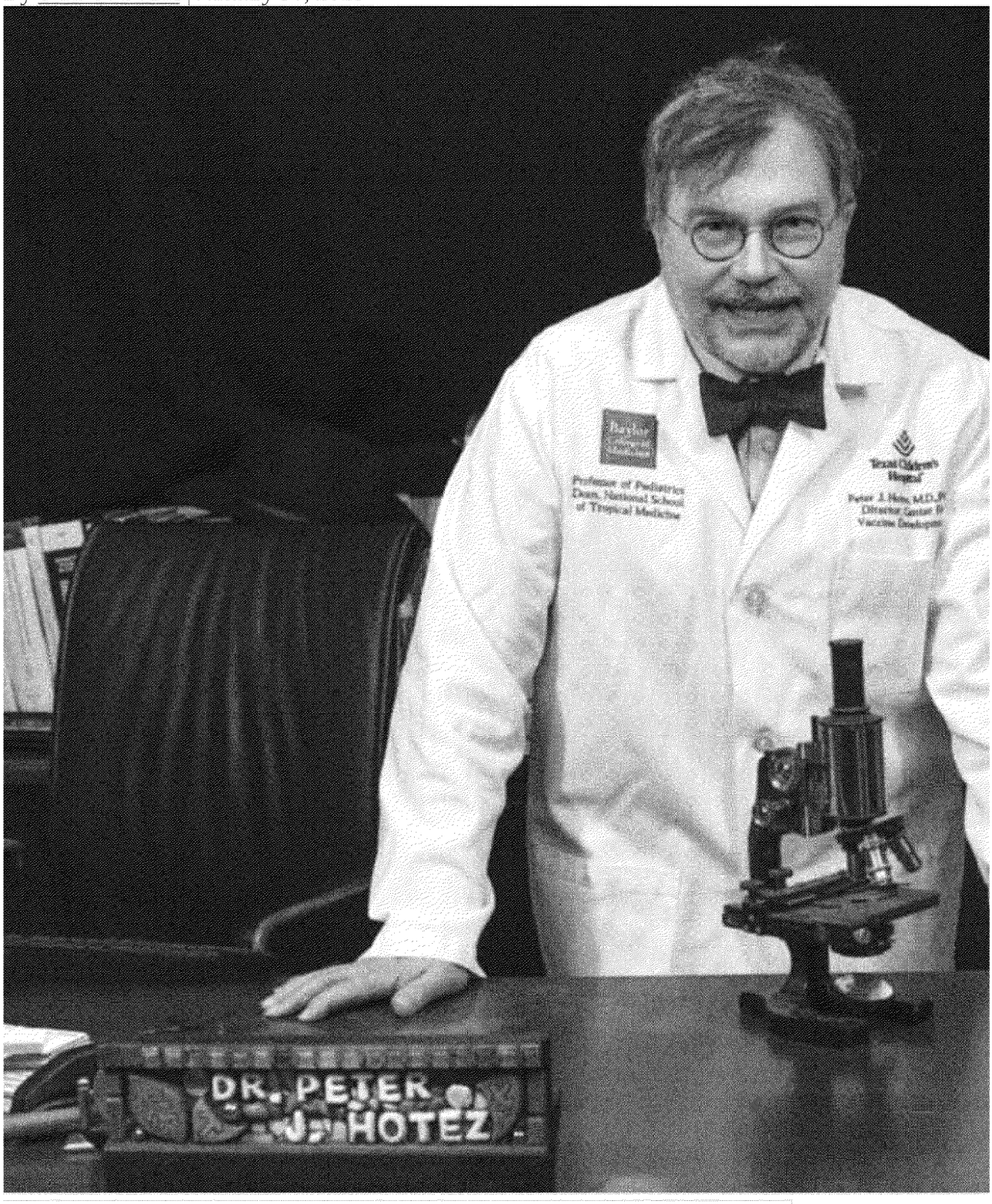
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017021
MORENS_NIH_035208
REL0000479443

research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad,* and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017022
MORENS_NIH_035209
REL0000479443

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017024
MORENS_NIH_035211
REL0000479443

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that

through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017026
MORENS_NIH_035213
REL0000479443

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoIIealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens b6 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 b6 wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <**b6**> wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: **b6** **b6**
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: **b6**

Executive Assistant: **b6**
Tel: **b6** **b6**
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: **b6**

From: Peter Daszak <**b6**>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <**b6**>; Keusch, Gerald T <**b6**>; Hotez, Peter Jay <**b6**>
Cc: David Morens <**b6**>; Jeffrey Sturchio <**b6**>; Aleksei Chmura <**b6**>
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Cc: David Morens b6; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6> Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017030
MORENS_NIH_035217
REL0000479443

on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

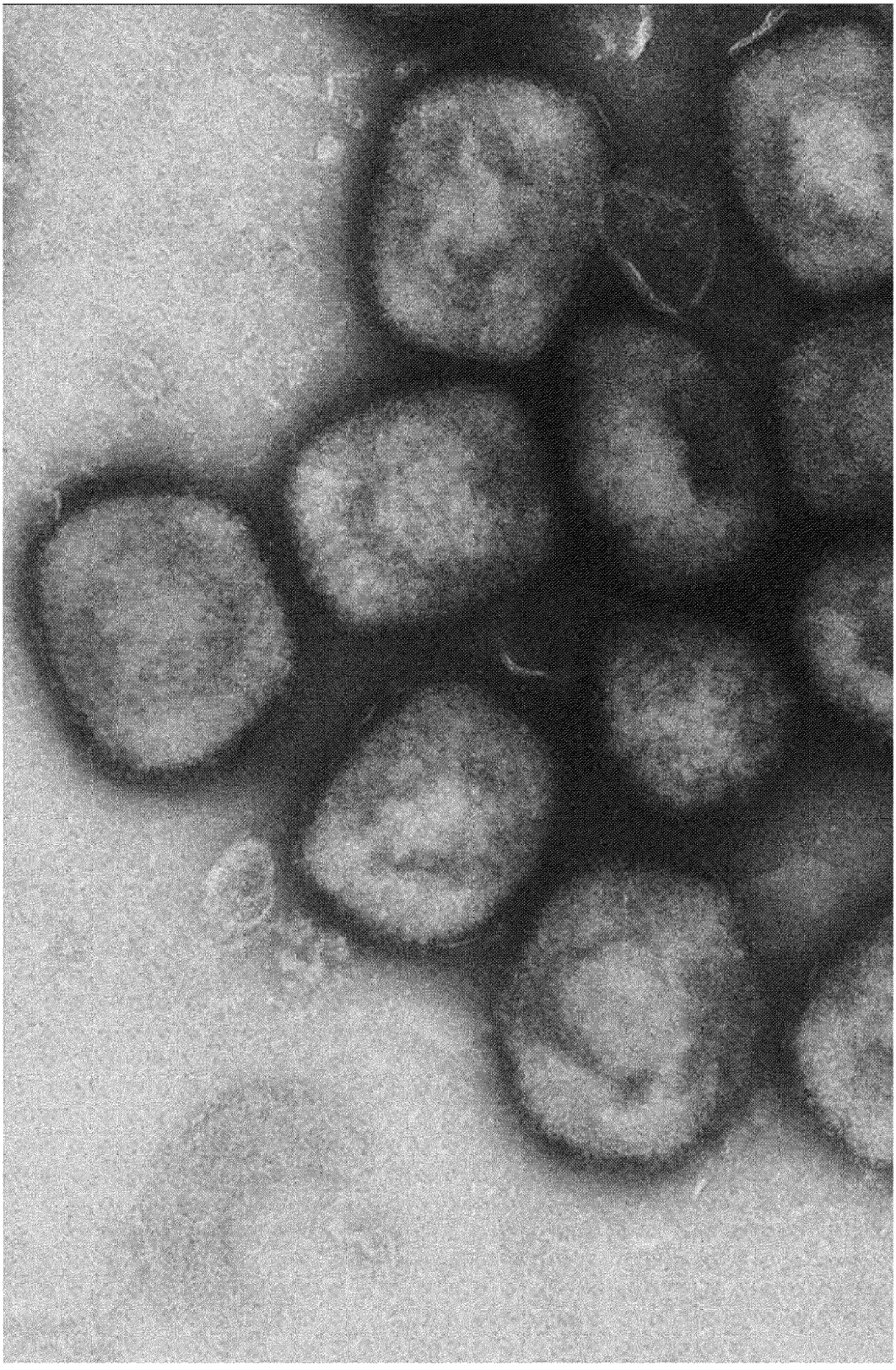
POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017031
MORENS_NIH_035218
REL0000479443



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017032
MORENS_NIH_035219
REL0000479443

attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017033
MORENS_NIH_035220
REL0000479443

lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017034
MORENS_NIH_035221
REL0000479443

go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6; David Morens b6
Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Rich Roberts b6
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 <hotez@bcm.edu>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017035
MORENS_NIH_035222
REL0000479443

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];
Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] 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 <hotez@bcm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM

To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: David Morens b6; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>
Aleksei Chmura b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6;
Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak b6 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 b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6; Gerald Keusch b6
; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017038
MORENS_NIH_035225
REL0000479443

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 b6 from b6 - 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 <b6> wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017039
MORENS_NIH_035226
REL0000479443

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak < b6 > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

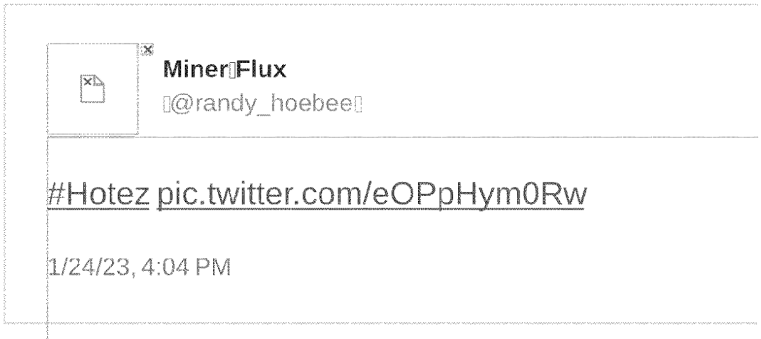
From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; David Morens < b6 >; Gerald Keusch < b6 >; Rich Roberts < b6 >
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

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 < b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] Aleksei Chmura < [b6] >; David Morens < [b6] >; Gerald Keusch < [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

Date: Mon, 29 Apr 2024 5:34:47 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 29 Apr 2024 5:34:31 PM -0400
Subject: Re: From Marcia McNutt
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: John Feigelson [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Keith Martin [b6] Rich Roberts [b6] (b) (6) [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

As I mentioned in my call i raised your House hearing as well as Tony's

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Doug [b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On Apr 29, 2024, at 4:20 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

It's good to hear that. I hope they can turn it into action. At the very least they'll be supportive of everything we're all doing…

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_NIH_047659
REL0000479450

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Gerald Keusch <b6
>; Jeff Sturchio b6 ; Keith Martin b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 g >
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "McNutt, Marcia K." b6
> **Date:** April 29, 2024 at 3:48:31 PM CDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6 >, Anthony Fauci b6 >, "Iwasaki, Akiko" <b6 , "Mann, Michael E." b6

MORENS_NIH_047660
REL0000479450

Cc: "Agee, Jennylee" <b6>, "Chalfie, Martin" <b6>, Martin Chalfie <b6>, "Everly, Rebecca" <b6> Rich Roberts <b6>

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
<b6> <b6> (office) | <b6> <b6> (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences. The information herein is privileged to the Academy. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

On Apr 29, 2024, at 3:47 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <b6> 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 b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

Date: Wed, 19 May 2021 9:15:44 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 19 May 2021 9:15:38 AM -0400
Subject: Latest from NIH
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6>; keusch, Gerald T b6

Hi:

In case you didn't see this

Statement on misinformation about NIH support of specific "gain-of-function" research

In normal times this would be very helpful, but without a clear definition of what is meant by GoF research, this may only muddy the waters. One thing is clear though and that is that GoF is a hot button for many people thinking about this issue. I had a long conversation with David Lipman, who used to be NCBI Director, yesterday and it was GoF research that he felt was being carried out at the Wuhan Institute that prompted him to tend towards belief in a lab-leak. It is going to be difficult to put that idea back in the bottle, but it would be helpful if there was a way to do so without compromising or even involving Peter.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:01:06 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:00:01 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 b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
Date: Sun, Jul 23, 2023 at 12:55 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 b6

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009626
MORENS_NIH_020136
REL0000479455

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 [b6]>, Peter Daszak [b6]>, Aleksei Chmura [b6]>, David Morens [b6]>, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>, Rich Roberts [b6]

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8e5830b1236d4cfd102108db8b9e5dd7%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=aSZa6iGTZnusH7ZxIa0qvmIYV9W3RLqMbEFTR0ck2Ac%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>
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%7C8e5830b1236d4cfd102108db8b9e5dd7%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=FUk9fLW4QcXnkmiCp%2F8CO6biZcoK67qvTv5hueGea6o%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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:44:50 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:14 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New White House pandemic center
From: David Morens <b6>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments: Biden_administration_faces_hurdles_finding_someone_to_run_its_new_pandemic_command_center_-_POLITICO_PRO.pdf

---

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 9:45 AM
Subject: New White House pandemic center
To: Peter Daszak b6, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6>, Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6>, Rich Roberts b6>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date:	Mon, 15 Aug 2022 4:51:21 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 15 Aug 2022 4:51:08 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Wall Street Journal today regurgitates an Op Ed by Robert Redfield from last summer!
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6
CC:	David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 Jeff Sturchio b6
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg

So mediocre

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 15, 2022, at 3:13 PM, Peter Daszak [redacted] > wrote:

This one's full of misinformation about what a humanized mouse is (just a mouse with human ACE2 in lung rather than a mouse with human tissue grafts) and what gain of function is…

https://www.wsj.com/articles/wuhan- virology-lab-leak-gain-of-function-research-ccp-beijing-covid-origins-coronavirus-11629037765

- OPINION
- COMMENTARY

The World Needs to Know What Happened at the Wuhan Lab

Was the coronavirus manipulated to infect humans? If so, that will inform our response.

By Robert Redfield and Marc Siegel
Aug. 15, 2021 3:34 pm ET
SAVE
PRINT
TEXT
376

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009486
MORENS_NIH_019980
REL0000479467



Members of the World Health Organization team investigating Covid-19's origins arrive at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, Feb. 3.PHOTO: HECTOR RETAMAL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wasn't allowed to visit the city of Wuhan, China, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology in early 2020. We've been trying to find out why ever since. Had we encountered transparency rather than stonewalling, it wouldn't have been necessary to put together the circumstantial pieces of the puzzle on our own.

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 some $600,000 for a new ventilation system. What prompted this new need?

In January 2020 two hypotheses emerged about the origin of the novel coronavirus: that it began in a bat, then infected another animal before spreading to humans in a Wuhan "wet market," where wild animals are sold for meat; or that it emerged from the Wuhan laboratory. The wet-market story was pushed by the Chinese CDC and the World Health Organization. Public-health leaders argued that Covid-19 was like SARS and MERS, earlier coronaviruses that emerged from bats and spread through an intermediate animal.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009487
MORENS_NIH_019981
REL0000479467

But neither of those viruses has ever evolved to the point where it can transmit efficiently from one human to the next. There have been fewer than 10,000 cases of each virus world-wide since SARS was discovered in 2003 and MERS in 2012. What virus comes out of a bat cave and infects humans by the millions? It's not biologically plausible. If instead it evolved slowly over many years in nature, how come no one knew of it?

One of the lab theories hypothesizes that SARS-CoV-2 was manipulated or "taught" to infect humans. Imagine several viruses being run through humanized mice (grafted with human tissue and immune cells) to test their ability to infect human tissue. Notably, SARS-CoV-2 includes a kind of cleavage site that allows its spike protein to change its orientation and dock more easily with a human cell.

This hypothesis bears investigation, especially since no new information has emerged in the past 18 months to support the natural-origin theory. Meantime, a growing body of circumstantial evidence supports the lab-leak theory, including information reported by the U.S. State Department that employees of the Wuhan lab were becoming sick with Covid-like symptoms in the fall of 2019.

A virus with a head start in becoming acclimated to humans likely has an easier time evolving to increase transmission. Hence the variants, which seem more effective than anything nature usually delivers on its own. In the months ahead we may have another variant that is even more contagious than Delta, that makes people sicker and—in the worst-case scenario—that eludes vaccines.

The story of SARS-Cov-2 started long before January 2020. We believe the virus was most likely uncontained in a laboratory where it was being worked on, and that it escaped unintentionally. An analysis of cellphone data conducted by a Pentagon contractor revealed a shutdown of traffic around the Wuhan lab in the late summer and early fall of 2019. Weeks later, in late September, the city's hospital parking lots were filling up, a Harvard study of satellite images found.

There were hallmarks of scientific arrogance and failures in the containment system. China's CDC initially appeared to be out of the loop but later became a key messenger, selling the natural-origin and wet-market theory. Another apparent misdirection was several key scientists' insistence on a narrow definition of "gain of function" research to include remodeling, overt bioengineering, shaping or constructing a virus. As far as we're concerned, if a virus is taught to or evolves in a lab to infect human tissue more efficiently, that's gain of function.

Beyond the responsibility to tell the truth, there is the global need to know what we are dealing with because it affects how we approach the problem. Physicians on the front lines were ambushed from the beginning as the novel pathogen was spreading through communities asymptomatically and causing an unexpected inflammatory response in blood vessels and major organs. Now variants are emerging rapidly that continue to change the game. All this is in keeping with a virus that more likely jumped from a bat to a lab, not to a rat or a rabbit.

We need a comprehensive bipartisan investigation into the origin of Covid-19. Until then, we call for a world-wide moratorium on gain-of-function research while authorities develop a clear and careful policy to help prevent the next pandemic.

Dr. Redfield, a virologist, served as CDC director, 2018-21. Dr. Siegel is a clinical professor of medicine and medical director of Doctor Radio at NYU Langone Health, a Fox News medical correspondent, and author of "COVID: The Politics of Fear and the Power of Science."

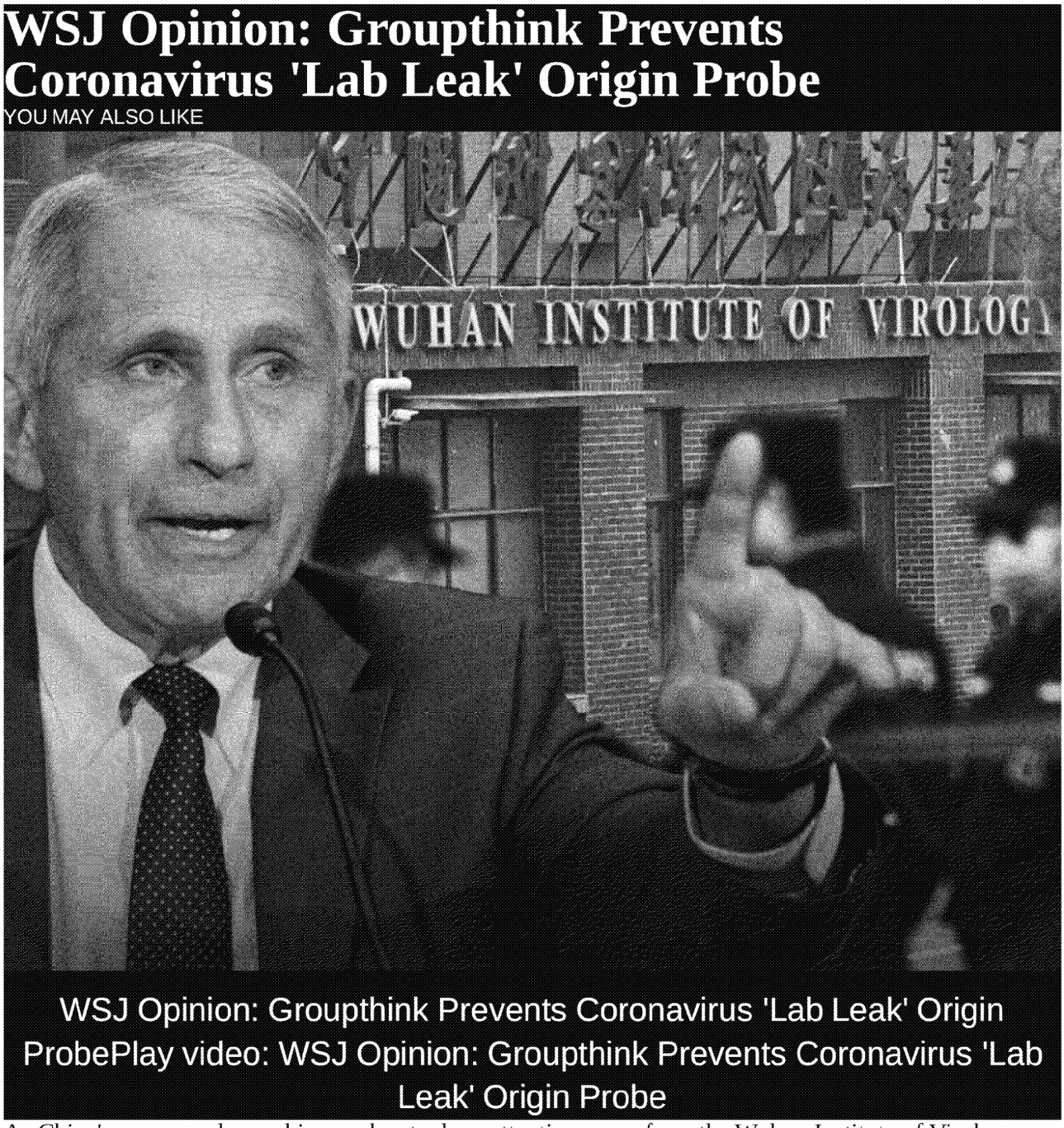
Correction

The Wuhan Institute of Virology solicited bids in 2019 for a new ventilation system with a budget of approximately $600,000. The figure was misstated in an earlier version. The authors relied on a House Foreign Affairs Committee report, which cited an evidently mistranslated Chinese document. An earlier

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009488
MORENS_NIH_019982
REL0000479467

also mischaracterized the source of the conclusion that traffic near the institute was shut down in the late summer and early fall of 2019. It was a study of cellphone data by a Pentagon contractor.

Advertisement - Scroll to Continue



As China's propaganda machine pushes to draw attention away from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Americans who dismissed the lab-leak theory have a conflict of interest. Image: AFP/Getty Images Composite: Mark Kelly

Appeared in the August 16, 2021, print edition as 'The World Needs to Know What Happened at the Wuhan Lab'.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009489
MORENS_NIH_019983
REL000479467

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Roberts, Rich b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Gerald T Keusch b6; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: More harassment

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1557103051109957632?s=21 &t=UzFVc_HVziNu0Sqeqa0QsA

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 9, 2022, at 10:57 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Please do David.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009491
MORENS_NIH_019985
REL0000479467

On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura < [b6] >; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' < [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
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).

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009492
MORENS_NIH_019986
REL0000479467

https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; David Morens b6; David Morens b6; Gerald T Keusch b6
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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; David Morens b6; David Morens b6; Gerald T Keusch b6; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009493
MORENS_NIH_019987
REL0000479467

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009494
MORENS_NIH_019988
REL0000479467

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > --
> > Emily Kopp
> > Reporter
> > U.S. Right to Know
> > Signal: b6 b6
> >
> > 

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009495
MORENS_NIH_019989
REL0000479467

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:50 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:06 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 b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
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 b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 3:13 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: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >, Gerald Keusch [b6] >, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >

Yes troubling and they have money and now political power

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: **b6**

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

[b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002379
MORENS_NIH_008895
REL0000479469

b6

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 1:02 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant (b) (6)

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens
b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio
b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > 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.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C2597f9162a144db6f55508db8a117a76%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=4taoniC6%2FNwMrZtDkdq4h%2Bzrjicd62N9qB45eJIEBi8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]; Aleksei Chmura
[b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
Gerald Keusch [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;
Rich Roberts [b6]>
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%7C2597f9162a144db6f55508db8a117a76%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=WjdufkFYK%2B9prgtKUetxkw7BPj7iJxIYNqQcoTWeaF8%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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 12:20:59 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 12:16:48 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Keith Martin [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

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 [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Geoffrey Brumfiel [b6] >
> **Date:** May 17, 2024 at 11:06:26 AM EDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6] >
> **Subject: Origins of COVID**
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**
>
> ---
>
> Hi Peter,
>
> We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.
>
> Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
> Best,
> Geoff

Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | gbrumfiel@npr.org | desk: +1 b6 b6 | cell: +1 b6 b6

MORENS_NIH_044999
REL0000479470

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 12:54:18 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 12:54:14 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Piece in Forbes calling for no further fieldwork to discover wildlife viruses...!
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>;
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Peter: Exactly! Since Salzberg is a computational biologist, I doubt he spends much time in the field. Maybe that's why he gets it so wrong?

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:00 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>
Subject: Re: Piece in Forbes calling for no further fieldwork to discover wildlife viruses...!

His recommendations seem to me are the exact opposite of what needs to be done. I don't understand some of these people.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:55 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

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.

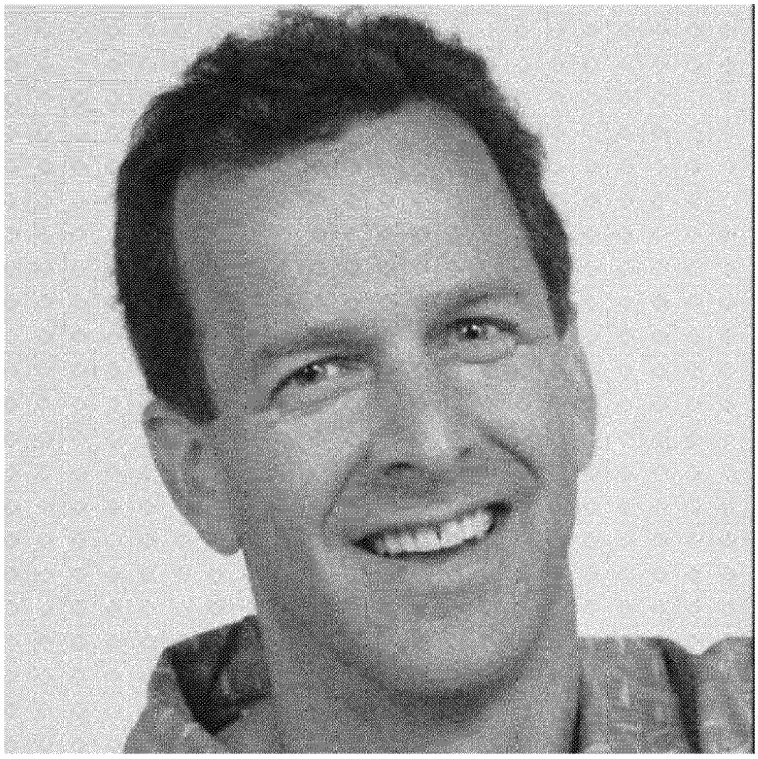
https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevensalzberg/2021/10/11/leave- the-bats-alone-its-long-past-time-to-halt-gain-of-function-research-on-deadly-viruses/?sh=2bcb917e53f2

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013887
MORENS_NIH_026360
REL0000479475



Steven Salzberg
Contributor
Healthcare

Follow

Listen to article

11 minutes

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013888
MORENS_NIH_026361
REL0000479475



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013889
MORENS_NIH_026362
REL0000479475

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 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

CDC: Salmonella Outbreak Has Left 279 Ill, 26 Hospitalized In 29 States

Canadians End Up In ICU After Attending 'Covid Party'

White House Mandates Pfizer Vaccines for Millions of Citizens ...Before the FDA Clinical or Safety Reviews Have Been Made Public

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."*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013890
MORENS_NIH_026363
REL0000479475

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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013891
MORENS_NIH_026364
REL0000479475

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."

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013892
MORENS_NIH_026365
REL0000479475

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.)

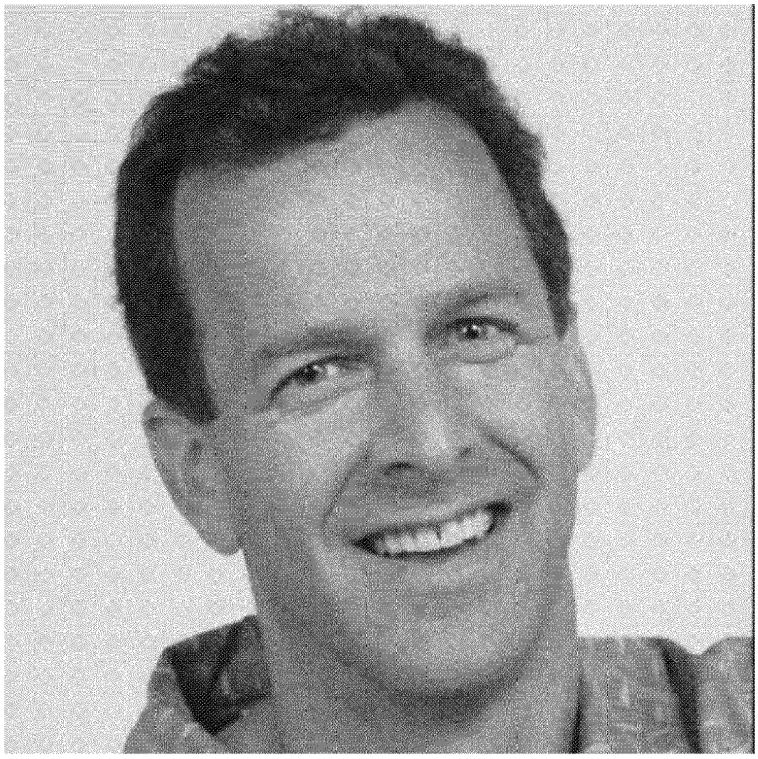
It's also time to ask, very critically, whether anyone should be venturing out into remote areas to collect animals that are infected with possible pandemic-causing microbes, and bringing those animals back to densely populated areas. Rather than preventing pandemics, these activities are more likely 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.

Follow me on Twitter. Check out my website.



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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:35 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6
Attachments: image001.jpg

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** < b6
Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 8:57 AM
Subject: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich < b6 >, David Morens < b6 >, Gerald T Keusch < b6 >, Jeff Sturchio < b6 >, Aleksei Chmura < b6

https://twitter.com/angie_rasmussen/status/1561695035069870080?s=21 &t=PAHTkUvPvV4TIR26yw9vPA

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook- instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens <b6>; Gerald T Keusch <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>
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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>; David Morens <b6>; Gerald T Keusch <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6 g]
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006200
MORENS_NIH_015090
REL000479477

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Roberts, Rich <b6>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens <b6>; Gerald T Keusch <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: <b6> <b6>

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: <b6>

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens <b6>; Gerald T Keusch <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' [b6] 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio' < [b6] ; 'Roberts, Rich' < [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih-ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

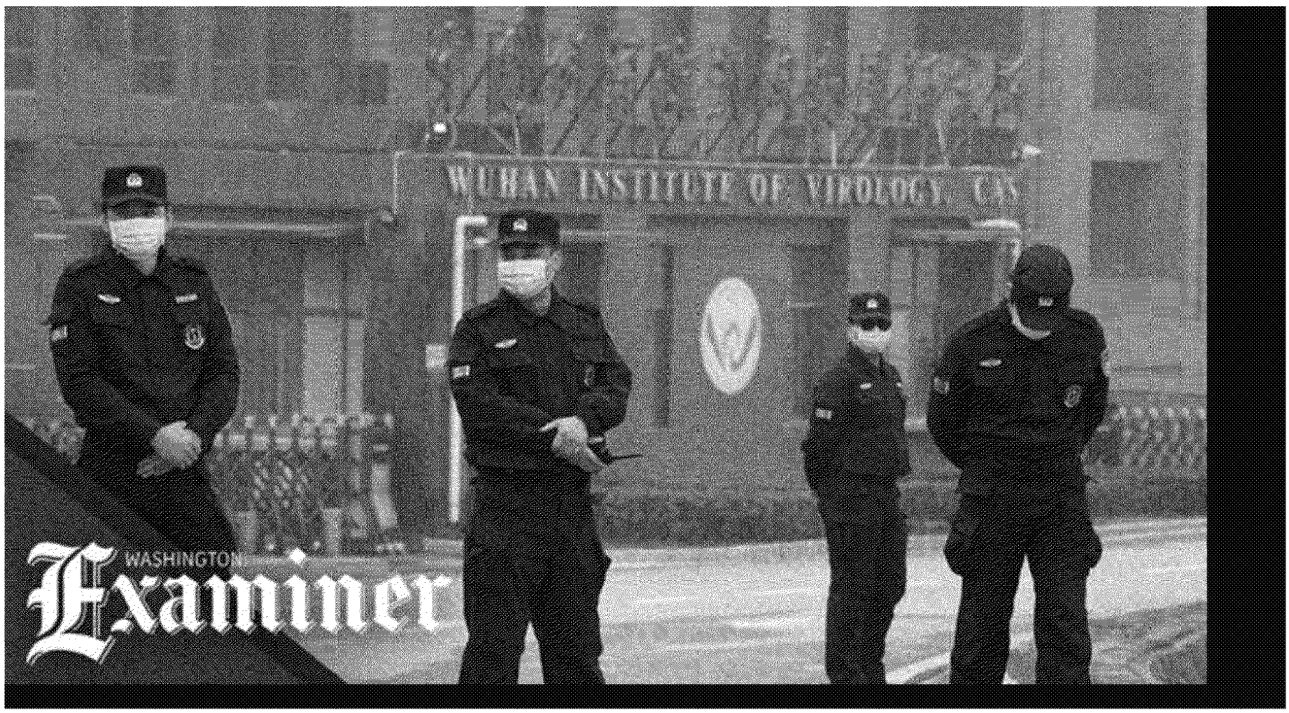
WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |

August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006205
MORENS_NIH_015095
REL0000479477

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 t

Date: Wed, 12 May 2021 6:06:22 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 12 May 2021 6:01:41 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Letter to Dr. Daszak from House Energy and Commerce Minority
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments: [b6] - EHA Letter re COVID Origins.pdf; EHA letter - Attachment A.pdf

I thought you'd be interested to know that a senior staffer from the Republicans on the House E&C called me up AT HOME today asking me 'how I'm getting on preparing answers' to their 34 questions. This is 5 days before their deadline, and they called my house landline. I was really annoyed, called it outrageous, told them not to call me at home again and to call the office.

Clearly, they're angling for a reaction so they can make it public that I don't want to give them information.

I then got an email (below), referring to our 'telephone conversation' – pretty ugly tactic.

I'm not going to respond to these requests, but expect that the story next week will be about EHA refusing to help congress understand COVID origins.

This is a no-win situation right now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Cutler, Diane [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:47 PM
To [b6]
Cc: Slobodin, Alan [b6]
Subject: FW: Letter to Dr. Daszak from House Energy and Commerce Minority
Importance: High

Dr. Daszak,

In follow-up to our brief telephone conversation today in which I asked how you were coming along with your response to meet the May 17, 2021 deadline for the information and documentation requested in the April 16, 2021 letter you received from the Energy and Commerce Republican leaders (attached again to this email), you informed me that I had reached you at your home and that we needed to email or call you at your office. When I asked for the telephone number where we should call and asked about your availability for a call, you did not answer and you ended the call with me.

Shortly afterwards, I called and left a message on b6 b6 although no identifiers were provided on the voice mail. I left my callback number of b6 b6 and am following up via this email as well.

Please contact me at your earliest opportunity to discuss best options for your response that is due to the Energy and Commerce Republican leaders by May 17, 2021.

Thank you,

Diane Cutler
b6 b6

From: Clutterbuck, William <b6
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:45 PM
To: b6
b6
Cc: Slobodin, Alan b6 >; Cutler, Diane (b) (6)
Subject: Letter to Dr. Daszak from House Energy and Commerce Minority

Please acknowledge upon receipt, confirmation of receiving this e-mail notification and attachments.

Please see the attached letter to Dr. Peter Daszak from House Committee on Energy and Commerce Ranking Members McMorris Rodgers, Guthrie, and Griffith.

This attachment **includes a technical correction** to the letter sent earlier today. Please disregard the email sent earlier today.

Regards,

William Clutterbuck
Staff Assistant/ Policy Analyst
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Tel: b6 | William.Clutterbuck@mail.house.gov

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 1 Dec 2021 6:16:00 PM -0500
Sent:	Wed, 1 Dec 2021 6:14:16 PM -0500
Subject:	House E&C Republicans letter, and details of my conversation with NAM today
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments:	House E&C letter to NAM 2021.11.30.pdf

First, note that I'm cc'ing David Morens, specifically via his gmail account – the only mechanism I will use to contact him from now on. I'm also noting that Boston University, New England Biolabs, and Baylor College of Medicine are private institutions, so therefore can't be FoIA'd.

I spoke with the NAM Home Secretary, Elena Fuentes-Affleck, this afternoon, who let me know that I've had 'allegations of misconduct' made about me by the House E&C Committee. I reminded her that these are coming from just the Republicans, not the committee, and that they are political attacks with no basis. She told me that nonetheless, NAM policy is that these will be dealt with in a 2 part process – 1st evaluation of whether there'll be an investigation. If they decide these allegations need investigating, they'll send me the letter and then there will no doubt be a long protracted process by which I get slowly and publicly dissected. I asked her how long the first step would take, and she said 'probably very quickly given the nature of the accusations'. Not sure what that means.

One issue is that as soon as the allegations are made, members are supposed to not take part in any NAM or NASEM activities, including my Chairing of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and membership on the Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats. I've also got a call on Friday which Victor Dzau organized with Eric Lander at OSTP to review the American Pandemic Preparedness Plan, which contains some of my ideas since we were originally asked by Victor to help Eric draft it. Nicki Lurie is in that small group also, Jerry.

Elena asked if I would be willing to voluntarily step down from my duties. I told her absolutely not, as a matter of principle, because these are utterly baseless accusations that are politically motivated, and that we as scientists need to stand up to bullying. I believe she'll be writing to me soon to inform me I'm suspended. I told her I'd follow the procedure, but cannot volunteer to recuse myself from activities I strongly believe in, and that I was asked to take part in because of my expertise etc., and that serve the public good.

I've now found the letter from the House Energy and Commerce Republicans to NAM – it's on their website. Sorry to say that they've managed to churn out 16 pages of accusations with detailed citations etc. My concern is that it will be hard for NAM to dismiss this, given the detail. Of course, all of them are riddled with carefully misquoted statements, innuendos, factual inaccuracies, and none of them have any bearing on reality. But, imagine how much time and energy it will take to respond to these in detail, if the NAM decides to 'investigate'. Furthermore, isn't this exactly what these politicians are trying to do – generate a bunch of publicity by misquoting my responses to their innuendo-filled garbage. It serves the dual purpose of preventing EcoHealth from getting on with its work – something these guys are delighted to do as well.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 Jeff Sturchi b6
Subject: RE: House E&C Republicans call on NAM to expel me!

Hi Rich,

I would agree with you that it won't succeed, but that is not their point because what they want to do is to demonize NAM – if Victor has the internal strength to strongly push back – as well as science as an enterprise and individual scientists like Peter. I have written to Victor to urge him to resist, strongly, in public, to separate science and integrity from politics and despotism (I actually didn't say despotism).

We must each in our own way figure out how to continue to push for scientific integrity and the integrity of science. We have a long way to go as COVID has so amply demonstrated.

By the way, how many laureates ultimately signed on to your letter to Francis in 2020. Peter tells me it was 81, but I had the number 77 stuck in my mind. I am about to send a piece to The Hill to point out how Collins and Tabak have failed us and I mention the number in that, and its best to be as accurate as I can be.
Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: RE: House E&C Republicans call on NAM to expel me!

Peter:

And that is why one should never vote republican. I doubt if it will succeed.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015007
MORENS_NIH_030662
REL0000479486

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: House E&C Republicans call on NAM to expel me!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear All,

Hope you had a good Thanksgiving. I'm afraid a black cloud hung over mine, with ongoing harassment.

I woke up to requests from Politico for comment on a story re. the following awful attack from House Republicans, who are calling on Victor Dzau for NAM to investigate me, remove me from the Chair of the Forum on Microbial Threats, expel me from NAM, etc.:

https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republican-leaders-request-national-academy-of-medicine-investigate-ecohealth-alliance-president-peter-daszak-for-misconduct/

I'm obviously deeply worried about this and again am unsure what I'm supposed to do. This is such a blatant attack, and one that they know plays to a weak point – the Academies are unlikely to take on a political fight with anyone in Congress, even in the Minority, and I don't expect them to back me up publicly.

Any ideas?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations

from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:00:12 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:59:27 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
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 [b6]

David M. Morens, MD
b6
[b6]
[b6] [b6] [b6] (work)
[b6] [b6] [b6] (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
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 [b6]>, Peter Daszak
[b6] >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6], David Morens
[b6]>, Gerald Keusch [b6]>, Jeffrey Sturchio
[b6]>

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: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens
b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio
b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > 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.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C680311c8b9cf4ee79f6708db8b9e44c7%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=omilyVKxCuoWn96EAbhbiPhggspHoq6aNhGflfor4j8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura
[b6] >; David Morens [b6] >;
Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >;
Rich Roberts [b6] >
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%7C680311c8b9cf4ee79f6708db8b9e44c7%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=LyLTXFTo37sACSjA2cx5haU6CtE%2FMIC8vBocQXS5bAw%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

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, 2 May 2024 9:58:34 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 2 May 2024 9:58:12 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]; David Morens [b6]

Yes and I think the Hiltzik article points this out, truly revolting Peter. I'm so sorry you are going through this. 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: [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On May 2, 2024, at 8:55 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Thankyou so much for speaking out about this Peter,

I just wrote to Jerry and Rich, and am copying this to our whole group:

I did my best yesterday to be ready to answer any questions they could throw at me, but as you saw, it was a forgone conclusion – we're the organization, and I'm the scientist that has to be thrown to the dogs to protect NIAID, NIH, Fauci and Biden. That's why the Dems threw me under the bus, and they said as much in their opening statements – they're worried a Republican administration would severely hinder NIH. Meanwhile the SSCP Republicans have had 2 years and come up with zero evidence of COVID originating in a lab, so they need a scalp.

I'm utterly devastated today, even though I suspected this is how it would go. I will keep on fighting Rich – it's my nature

(unfortunately) and also I really have no other options. Over the next few days, we'll be going through each of these ridiculous allegations and refuting them publicly, with evidence and receipts. We'll also be talking with lawyers and political consultants about what the likelihood of our organization being debarred is, and if there's any way we can fight that. I'll keep you updated once I know more.

As your talking with colleagues, I have no doubt many will read the stories and say "well, the SSCP does have a point, EcoHealth did not comply with regulations". This is not true, I've pointed out repeatedly to this committee, the NAM (when I was 'investigated' for 12 months at the behest of Republicans), the OIG, GAO and a dozen other bodies, that each of these allegations of 'non-compliance' are either demonstrably true, pathetically insignificant, or valid problems with the NIH system (which of course doesn't play well with Dems trying to protect NIH). Please remind your colleagues that I was not given a fair chance to respond on the day, and that their 'findings' were already published before I stepped into the room. I'd also be happy to get on the phone or zoom with people who are potentially supportive but wavering, to explain why these allegations don't hold water.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Rich Roberts b6; Gerald Keusch b6; Keith Martin b6>; David Morens b6
Subject: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story…

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, b6 Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 4:04:27 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 4:04:06 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]>; Keith Martin [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.png

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
[b6]
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]> 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

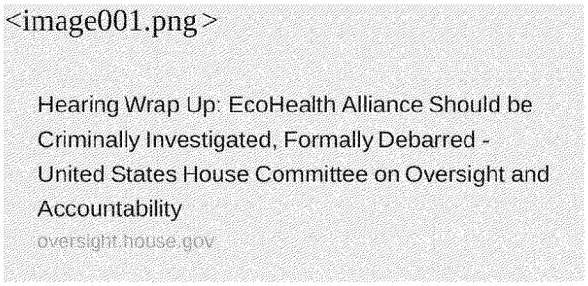
be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]; David Morens [b6]>
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

" **The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people.**"



I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

[b6]

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Keith Martin <b6>; David Morens <b6>
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: 7 b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

MORENS_NIH_044897
REL0000479497

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:35:46 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:49 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 1:34 PM
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, David Morens b6 >, Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Peter Daszak
b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
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]" <[b6]
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for Mother Jones, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the

Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have

embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002412
MORENS_NIH_008928
REL0000479499

vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed

abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.
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, 5 May 2022 11:52:43 AM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 5 May 2022 11:52:31 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC:	Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

Jerry:

I have contacted Marcia McNutt at NAS to draw her attention to this article and the need to counter the general republican attacks on scientists.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:36 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

EXTERNAL SENDER

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 b6
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008610
MORENS_NIH_018647
REL0000479501

Subject: Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

Until now I hadn't heard of the white coat project

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008611
MORENS_NIH_018648
REL0000479501

On May 5, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Roberts, Rich <b6> 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: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; David Morens <b6>
Hotez, Peter Jay <b6> Jeff Sturchio <b6>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear All,

Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed has done a deep dive on FoIA'd emails and put together a convincing account of how a pretty awful Animal Rights group (White Coat Waste) was behind much of the initial efforts to get our grant terminated by NIH. It shows that the campaign against EHA and myself was politically motivated and as Jeff Sturchio said in an email to me today 'cravenly opportunistic'. It shows clearly that Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, and a bunch of lawyers at NIH have been on a two-year long campaign to find justification for their actions so they can throw us under the bus to avoid political pressure.

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

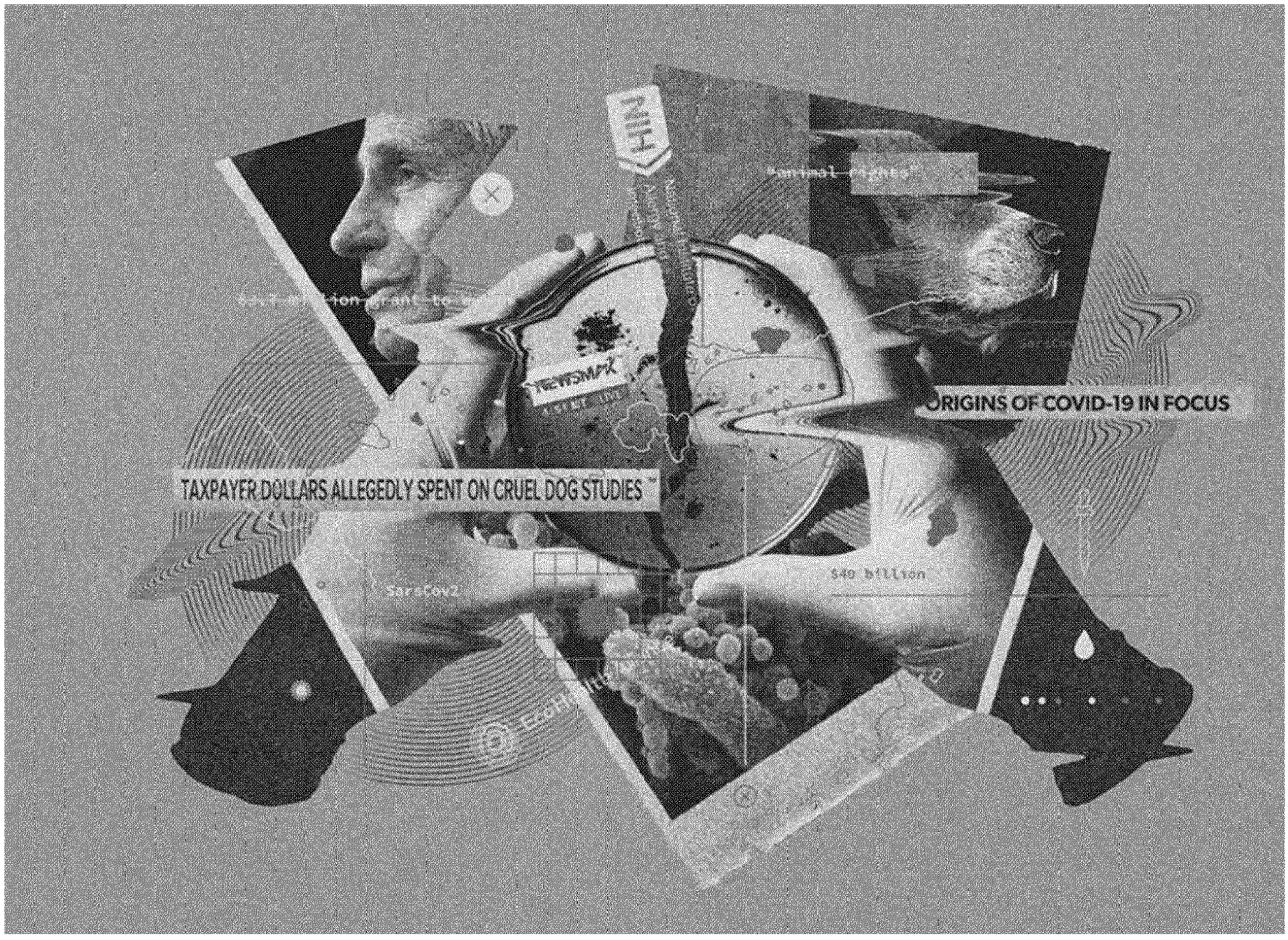
Note the following line, when Michael Lauer discovered that our Yr 5 report arrived late, so they could try to nail us for 'non-compliance' even though we'd already reported the experiment the year earlier.

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

What an awful bunch of disingenuous bureaucrats in the Office of the Director – a real rats nest – focused entirely on saving their own jobs, not caring about science or grantees…

Here's the text of the article:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008612
MORENS_NIH_018649
REL0000479501



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008613
MORENS_NIH_018650
REL0000479501

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

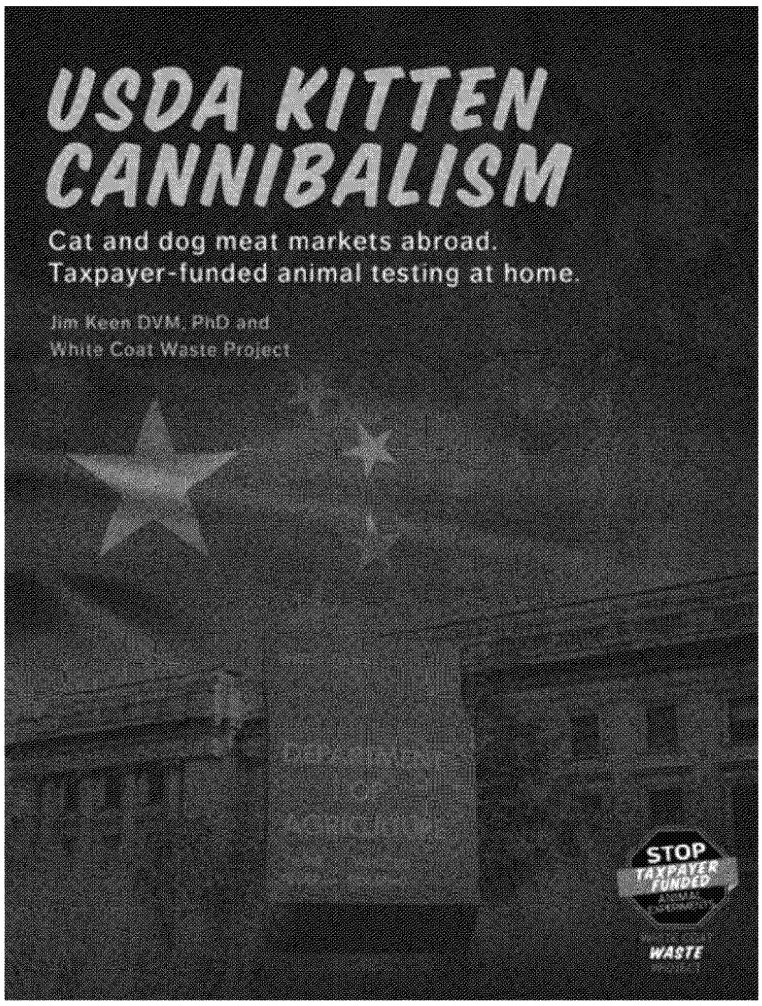
The White Coat Waste Project was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008614
MORENS_NIH_018651
REL0000479501

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.



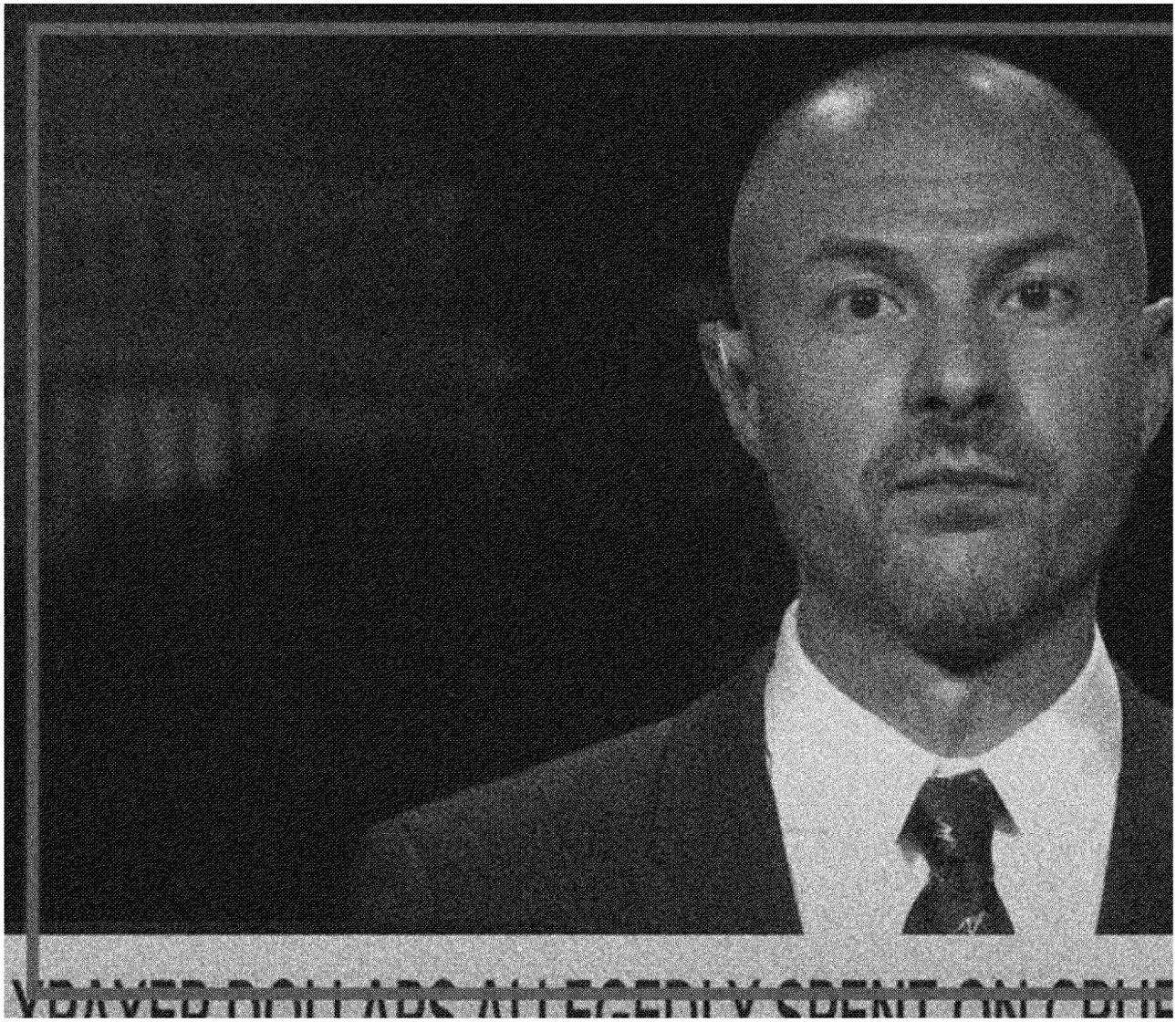
White Coat Waste

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008617
MORENS_NIH_018654
REL0000479501

Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost $120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. EcoHealth's emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the "near miss" with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control.

Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci's institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak's research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was "among the biggest players in coronavirus research," wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. "In short, we have on our team … probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

> "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible.'"

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project's findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: "REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave $3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny." ($3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH's grants database; in fact, less than $600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.)

The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project's "troubling find" about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: "We're working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this."

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: "The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory's bat research."

"I reached Tony, he is now informed," Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop.

Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that $3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. "We will end that grant very quickly," Trump said.

Michael Lauer, head of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins' central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan "nor has any contract been signed."

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for "convenience." In a one-page letter to

EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH's priorities as "preposterous under the circumstances."

EcoHealth's response came on the day after the Nobelists' letter, when the group's pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn't have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth's goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. "It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. "We got it from the highest office of the president: 'Cancel that grant,'" Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer's initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH's priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

"We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance," Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: "EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019." There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn't get this unfettered access.

With Lauer's second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.



Hector Retamal / AFP via Getty Images

The Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3, 2021

Since then, Republicans in Congress have leaned hard into the lab leak theory and the related idea that the NIH funded EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to conduct "gain-of-function" research — when scientists deliberately make viruses more dangerous in order to study pandemic risks. Internal correspondence obtained by BuzzFeed News shows NIH officials discussing at length how to respond to demands for information from congressional Republicans about the agency's funding for EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

The White Coat Waste Project once again entered the fray. In November 2021, it released 378 pages of documents obtained through FOIA, including a back-and-forth in 2016 between Daszak and two NIAID officials. Those officials were concerned that some experiments under EcoHealth's collaboration with the Wuhan institute might breach a pause the US government had imposed on gain-of-function work that could create a potentially pandemic virus. The experiments

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008620
MORENS_NIH_018657
REL0000479501

involved creating "chimeric" coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus's "spike" protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak's explanation that these experiments didn't meet the US government's definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: "This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted." The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak "red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research" — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn't meet the US government's definition of that term.

"We'll have to agree to disagree here," Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. "We're not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We're only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments."

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth's problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

> "Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

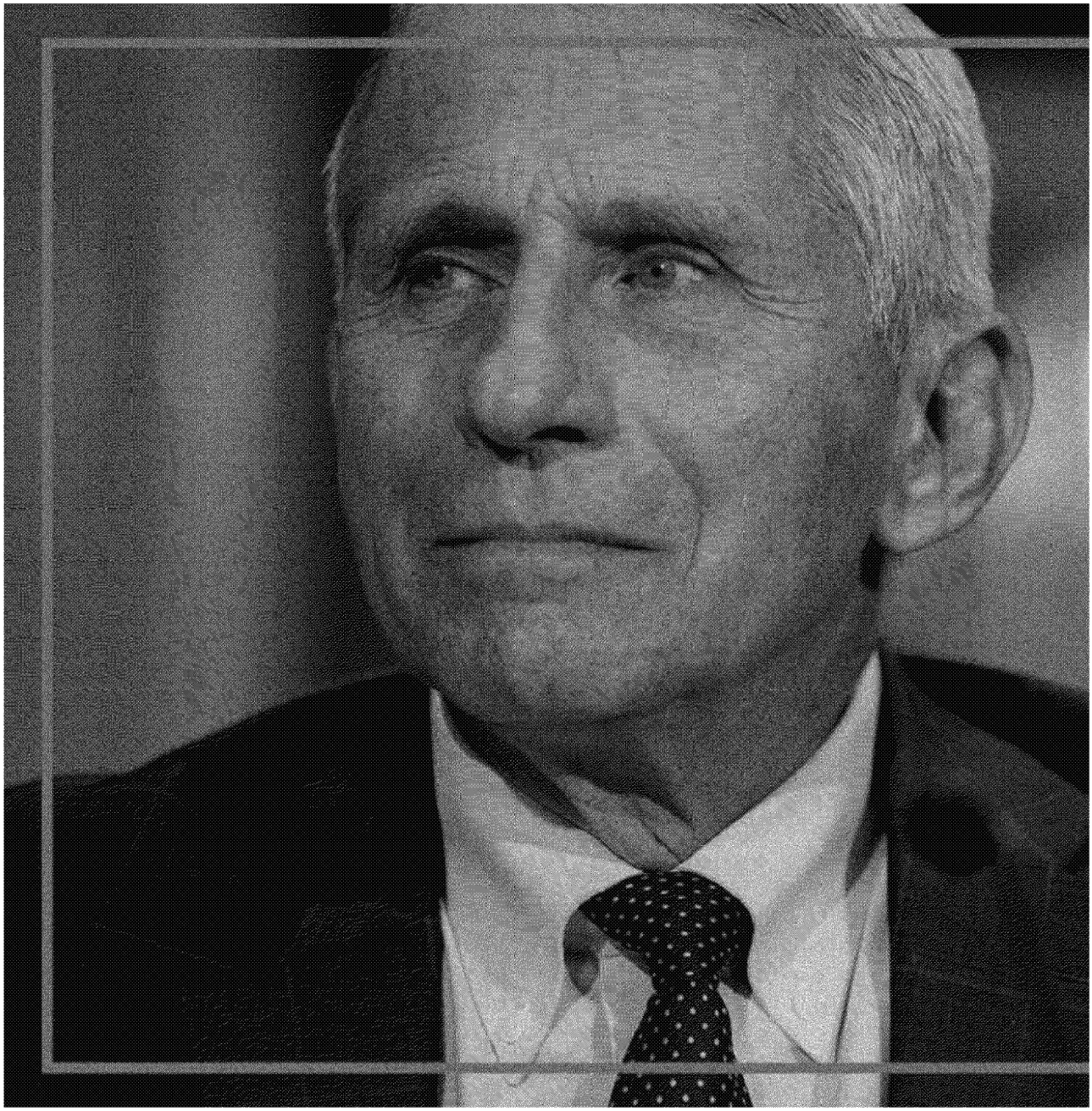
MORENS_SUBPOENA_008621
MORENS_NIH_018658
REL0000479501

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008623
MORENS_NIH_018660
REL0000479501

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you

received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008626
MORENS_NIH_018663
REL0000479501

Date:	Mon, 8 Mar 2021 4:00:57 PM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 8 Mar 2021 4:00:55 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: Yet another article
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	David Morens b6 >;
CC:	Peter Daszak b6 >; Kessler Robert b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; NEJM Use of commercial disinfectants to treat novel coronavirus (COVID-19).pdf

Just reading about Kamala Harris' role in the Biden White House. If only it was possible to reach her that could make a difference in this being heard in the administration. Not only is this an issue of scientific integrity, which they should believe in, but it has very pragmatic relevance to the way we are going to be seen internationally with respect to WHO and the global community affected by COVID, which should be a priority for this administration, and our ability to play a role in mitigating future threats and that it wholly dependent on whether we are supporting crazy stuff or using science diplomacy (in this case it is Peter and his entre in China and at WIV) to become involved.

The crap coming from the State Department and "intelligence" (sometimes hard to use the term for some of the people involved) must be tamped down. Pompeo isn't there anymore; haven't they heard?

Finally the attached is to provide a smile today – one a day is a really good thing – although you may already have seen it and have had your allotted smile. I learned that the 5 authors are the control group for this paper.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:44 PM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Kessler Robert b6
Subject: RE: Yet another article

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 b6
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 g >; Kessler Robert b6 g >
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 <b6> 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 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] <b6>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Kessler Robert <b6>
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012796
MORENS_NIH_024196
REL0000479504

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Kessler Robert b6 >
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

On Feb 25, 2021, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> 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

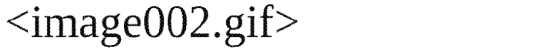
EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: <b6>
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 g) <b6 g>; Keusch, Gerald T <
<b6>
Subject: FW: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding



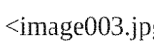
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012798
MORENS_NIH_024198
REL0000479504

b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)

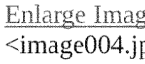
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
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

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China. Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images
The Wuhan Institute of Virology remains the most likely source of the coronavirus pandemic, yet it is set to receive US taxpayer dollars for the next three years. Worse, the cash will fund more animal research.
The National Institutes of Health told the Daily Caller that the Wuhan lab has an active Foreign Assurance file that authorizes it for US funding until 2024. When the virus first broke out, the Wuhan Institute had reportedly been testing coronaviruses in bats with $600,000 of US funding routed via the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.
The NIH terminated that EcoHealth grant, with the promise to restore it if an independent investigation cleared the Wuhan Institute of involvement in the outbreak. Now a World Health Organization delegation tasked with investigating the lab has preliminarily concluded that a leak was "extremely unlikely," which may let the contract resume. Never mind that the head of the WHO and the US State Department remain unwilling to rule out that possibility.
Here's where it gets really swampy: Not only did the WHO delegation fail to do its own investigation, merely accepting reports from China's government, the WHO team's only American member happens to be the EcoHealth Alliance's president, Peter Daszak — who demands that Washington unequivocally accept the delegation's findings. (This also tells you how pathetic the whole WHO investigation was.)
Anthony Bellotti, who heads nonpartisan watchdog group White Coat Waste Project, called for EcoHealth to be stripped of funding and asked Congress to finally conduct a real investigation into how the pandemic really started.
If this grant goes ahead, you'll know the Biden administration is committed to restoring Washington business-as-usual in all its disgusting ingloriousness.
Filed under Coronavirus , editorial , taxpayers , world health organization , 2/21/21

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012799
MORENS_NIH_024199
REL0000479504

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 7 Feb 2021 2:22:42 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 7 Feb 2021 2:22:41 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Today's Post editorial
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6; David Morens (dmmorens@gmail.com)
b6

Look forward to it, especially the "irritating the crap out of others" part.

And Dr. Morens, use your g-mail account.

-----Original Message-----
From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6>; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: RE: Today's Post editorial

Wow - looking forward to coming home with all these wankers parading their BS on the broadsheets.

The WHO mission will release a summary list of findings in 2 days here (afternoon of the 9th I think). Should hopefully help with some people and probably irritate the crap out of others...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Gerald Keusch b6

Subject: Today's Post editorial

At least one virologist must have biased this Post editorial in a paranoid direction. I wonder who. The list of scoundrels isn't that long. It is a shame that something like this gets into print. Although you, Peter, are briefly mentioned, i don't see any real evidence that the anonymous writer sought to question all the conspiratorial thinking. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_NIH_023658
REL0000479505

Date: Sat, 4 Dec 2021 9:29:31 AM -0500
Sent: Sat, 4 Dec 2021 9:27:45 AM -0500
Subject: Francis Collins interview in Nature
From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
To: keusch [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Here's Francis Collins trying to create his own narrative as he leaves NIH: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-03611-2

It's got pictures of him playing guitar, being liked by Obama, and looking concerned with a mask.

He's asked about GoF and doesn't throw EcoHealth under the bus, which is good. In the next para he's upset about the level of misinformation and doesn't know where it all comes from. Well…turns out some of it comes directly from him, e.g. spending the last 18 months attacking our work and amplifying lab-leak origin conspiracists.

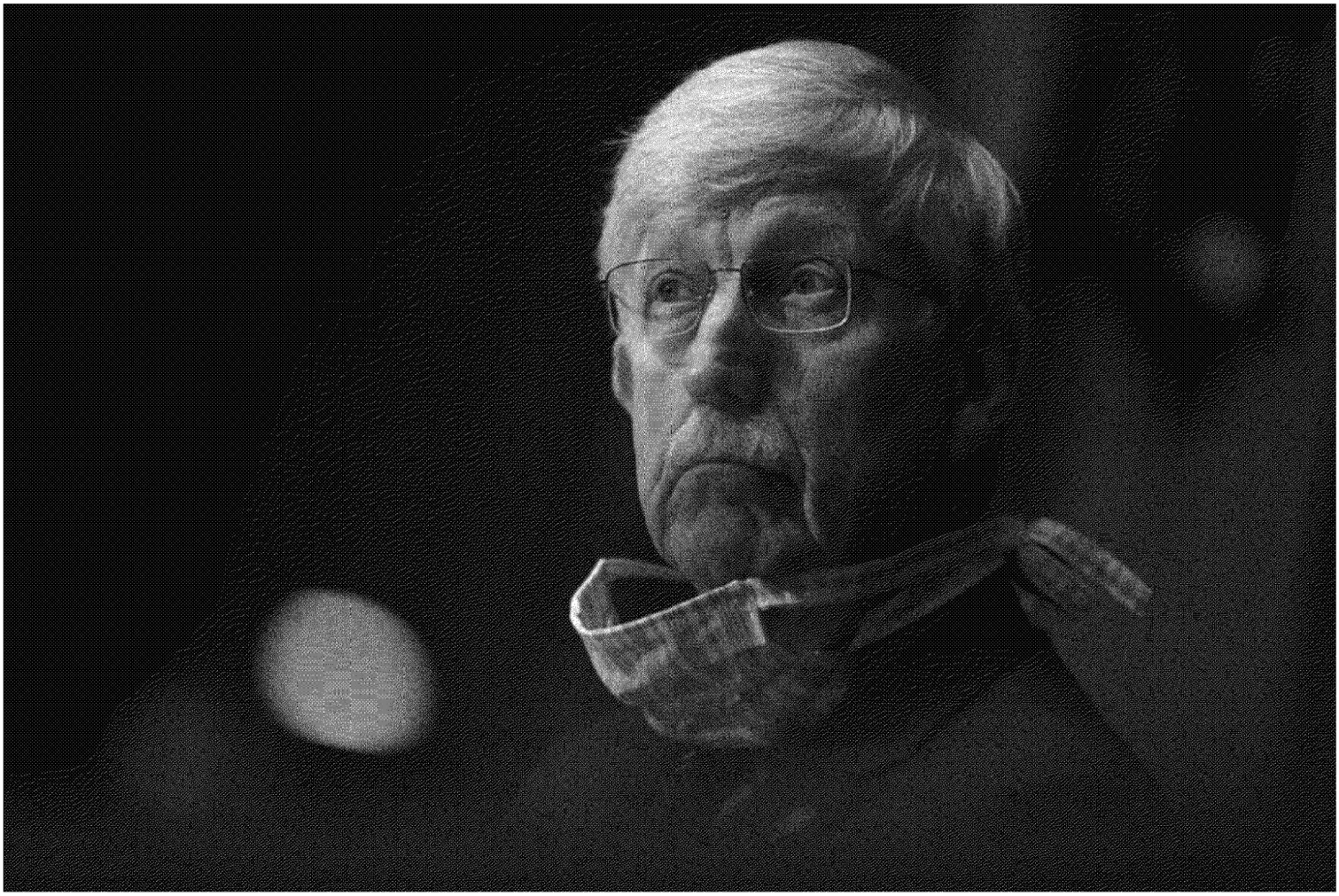
- NEWS Q&A
- 03 December 2021

Science misinformation alarms Francis Collins as he leaves top NIH job

The genome project leader reflects on his 12 years at the helm of a juggernaut biomedical agency, and what lies ahead.

- Nidhi Subbaraman
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Email

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015150
MORENS_NIH_031608
REL0000479513



Francis Collins has been head of the US National Institutes of Health for longer than any other presidential appointee.Credit: Andrew Harnik/AP Photo/Bloomberg/Getty

This month, Francis Collins will step down as director of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) after more than 12 years leading the agency, the world's biggest public funder of biomedical research. A former head of the Human Genome Project, he championed similar bold, big-budget science efforts, such as the All of Us Project, which aims to study health data from one million people. He led the NIH under three US presidents, steered it through a roiling pandemic, and faced myriad clashes over politics and biomedical science. Collins will stay on at the NIH to continue research in his lab. He spoke to *Nature* about some highlights of his time at the helm, and issues facing the agency in the future.

Which achievement will you cherish most?

It's really hard to pick one. Maybe it's where it was possible to bring together scientists of multiple disciplines and organize a truly bold, audacious project that would simply not have happened if one just counted on it coming together passively. I'm thinking of the BRAIN Initiative. I'm thinking of what we did with precision medicine and the All of Us Project, with the organized effort to develop COVID-19 vaccines in less than a year, and to develop diagnostic platforms for COVID-19 on similarly breathtaking timetables. Those are all things I feel proud of having played a role in.

Are there projects you're disappointed you didn't get to finish?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015151
MORENS_NIH_031609
REL0000479513

Our efforts in diversity. I think we made some real progress there. I appointed my chief officer for scientific workforce diversity — and there's everything we're doing as far as recruiting, and as far as making sure our clinical trials are focused on diversity. But here we are in 2021, and if you look at our workforce, we are still woefully under-represented for people of colour. That's not what the NIH should look like. We are losing out on talent; we're losing out on productivity that we know comes from diversity. We've pushed hard on this during my time as NIH director, and we have made some progress, but we've got a long way to go.



Collins stands with former US president Barack Obama in 2013 as he announces the BRAIN Initiative, an enormous effort to map the brain and learn more about neurodegenerative diseases.Credit: Alex Wong/Getty

US President Joe Biden's administration aims to launch ARPA-H, a multibillion-dollar agency, to accelerate research in science and health. It is supposed to be housed within the NIH. How would you gauge its success in two years' time?

By then, we should certainly have recruited and installed a visionary director who has the appropriate attitude towards risk taking. That person should have been able to bring on board 50 to maybe 100

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015152
MORENS_NIH_031610
REL0000479513

project managers who know how to identify projects that fit the ARPA-H model — projects that simply aren't getting done otherwise, and could be accelerated considerably if funded through this mechanism. I want to see some significant evidence of successes, but also some significant evidence of failures. Because if there aren't some failures — and they need to fail early — then they're not being risky enough.

Observers have commended your ability to gain bipartisan support for the NIH among leaders in the US Congress. How do you do it?

First of all, I've tried my darndest to stay out of any kind of political wrangling. I'm not a member of any political party. I've really endeavoured to make friends across the aisle and in both houses of Congress. Relationships really matter. I have this incredibly positive message to share with members of Congress. I can come to a meeting — and I would bet I've had 1,000 of those in these 12 years — with information about medical research that may advance the cause of preventing or treating a terrible disease. And they're all concerned about that, for themselves, their families, their constituents. So most of these are incredibly positive experiences because of the topic, and because I'd make every effort to make the information accessible and not get all tangled up in a lot of jargon and complicated words.

What would it take for the next NIH director to succeed at this?

It takes investment. The next NIH director needs to count on spending maybe a day every week interacting with leaders in the administration, and especially Congress — because they ultimately decide the budget — to build those relationships of trust. Then you know, when you sit down with a senator, that you've got this background of having had conversations — not always easy ones, because sometimes senators want things that we can't provide. But you also know that you're going to speak the truth to each other, and then everybody's bringing their best to that interaction and not trying to put one over on somebody.

The NIH faced criticism when it placed restrictions on fetal-tissue research during Donald Trump's presidency. Do you stand by the agency's actions?

I think it's widely known that the NIH tried to protect the continued use of human fetal tissue. But ultimately, the White House decided otherwise. And we had no choice but to stand down. That is how the government works. Now that we have a different administration, that has changed.

One can learn from fetal tissue, important things that may ultimately save lives. There is the reality that in this country, pregnancy terminations are legal, and so there are lots and lots of fetal tissues being discarded every day. I've tried to make the case, as a Christian and somebody who really does think that human life is sacred, that it is more ethical to utilize some of these fetal tissues occasionally, in a way that might benefit somebody, than to put them into the incinerator. That doesn't win me friends in some constituencies, and it certainly didn't win the day in the Trump administration.

In 2018, He Jiankui shocked the world when he announced that twins had been born from CRISPR-edited embryos. Some researchers

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015153
MORENS_NIH_031611
REL0000479513

were aware of the work before it grabbed headlines. Do you think researchers have an obligation to raise an alarm about work that crosses legal or ethical lines?

I do think they have a role. We are not just technicians. We are also supposed to be people who have a moral compass, and if something is happening in biological research that crosses that line into territory, which, in general, we as the human species have concluded shouldn't be happening, then it's up to us to point that out. I was not one of those who knew that this experiment was going on. The whole thing was complicated by the fact that we don't have an international body that basically sets these kinds of ethical rules. This is one of the things that vexes me a bit. And I don't see it as likely that that's going to emerge anytime soon, given the fact that countries don't seem to be able to agree on a lot of things.



A musician, Collins often performed for staff, and at benefits and other venues during his time as NIH director. Here, he plays at the 13th Annual Prostate Cancer Foundation's Gala in 2017.Credit: Sean Zanni/Patrick McMullan/Getty

Some say the US government's efforts to prevent espionage under the 'China Initiative' amount to racial profiling. The NIH has cooperated with these efforts and clarified guidelines for scientists

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015154
MORENS_NIH_031612
REL0000479513

reporting foreign funds and appointments. Should anything change in the government's approach?

We're simply trying to identify places where people are doing things that are wrong. And recognizing that we have to act when we see that. I think we have to, when we approach what appears to be a troubling situation, try to start with giving the [research] investigator the benefit of the doubt that there was a careless failure to report something that should have been reported. I think that's what we are doing, and only when it becomes clear that there is an intentional distortion of the facts and intentional effort to physically hide information should we then be taking hard actions. We're working with our grantee institutions, because it's really their job to figure out what to do with their employees. We depend on them to decide what the appropriate action is.

It has been reported that NIH grant recipient EcoHealth Alliance, based in New York City, might have conducted what some virologists would consider 'gain of function' research conferring new abilities to coronaviruses. Experts have said the NIH allowed EcoHealth unusual latitude in that work. How would you characterize it?

This term 'gain of function' has caused so much confusion and so much misunderstanding, some of it rather intentional, to distort the facts of what happened. Which is why we're trying to just avoid the use of that term. Let's talk instead about 'enhanced pathogens of pandemic potential'. [EcoHealth was] not crossing the line into the area that required that extensive kind of oversight, as was ultimately put forward in the US government's P3CO [Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight] guidelines. I think we, at this point, are incredibly transparent. It took a little while to get there because of concerns about setting precedents for revealing information that we normally don't share about interactions between us and the grantee. I will be quick to say [the research] has nothing to do with the origin of SARS-CoV-2. I don't know what more we could be sharing.

You've watched science and politics collide for years. Do you believe politicization of science has grown worse?

It is much worse. And it's a reflection of the fact that polarization is much worse — and tribalism is much worse. We're in a really bad place. If science happens to produce a result that a political perspective doesn't like, then science has to be attacked. That's exactly what we see now happening, to the detriment of getting the facts out there.

What role does the NIH have in pushing back against misinformation about science?

This has turned out to be a much more severe situation than I would have imagined a year ago. I wish we had more insights from behavioural social science research into how this has come to pass, and why it could have gotten so completely widespread. I want to call this out as one of my most major concerns as I stepped down from the NIH, of looking at the situation in our nation. Somewhere along the way, our political hyperpolarization began having a lot of really dangerous consequences, where in many instances we seem to have lost a sense of how to tell the difference between a fact and an opinion — or some Facebook post that's, frankly, a lie. That's truly dangerous. That's another epidemic that is not

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015155
MORENS_NIH_031613
REL0000479513

going to go away even if we triumph over COVID-19. We need to figure out what happened here, and how to bring ourselves back to a place where our nation has a more stable future.

doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-03611-2

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 9:59 PM
To: 'keusch' b6 >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 ; 'David Morens b6 b6 ; 'Roberts, Rich' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6)' b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6 b6 Robert Kessler b6
Subject: call from Victor Dzau just now

Victor Dzau, President of NAM called me tonight. He told me he wanted to reassure me that they will not be throwing me under the bus, and that they are not naïve and realize the nature of these allegations, but with 16 pages of allegations + citations and references, they can't just ignore it. He said they have a procedure that has been carefully worked out that they'll have to adhere to, in which a 'standing committee' of the council will review the allegations and decide whether to investigate or not. He said I'll have plenty of opportunity to respond to them at some point and the whole process will be private to protect me. I pointed out that it doesn't protect me if I don't know the process and can't be assured a fair hearing if it's behind closed doors.

He then said I'd have to step back from my duties on various committees for the period of the initial review, and if they investigate, that period as well. He said those are the policies and procedures they have. I asked if I could see the policies and he

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015156
MORENS_NIH_031614
REL0000479513

said NAM doesn't make them public. I pointed out that a membership society should protect its members and the process should be open to them. He said I should trust him that there are policies, and he got a little bit irritated that I was pushing back. I explained that I have a Board I answer to, who will straight away say I need to see a copy of the policies, so my lawyers can review them. He said he will check to see if Council made a decision to keep them private or if they can be shared. If not, I'll have my lawyers draft a letter and demand them, if it gets to the point that they do an investigation.

At the end of our call he pointed out that he shouldn't really have called me (according to their process) and was doing this to give me his support. I thanked him for that, but then mentioned that it's a very lonely place when your funders, political representatives, president of your country, the press, your colleagues (some of them), and hate-filled gangs of ne'er-do-wells attack you on a daily basis. I mentioned that I've heard the same comments from many people about how I 'shouldn't worry' and that 'this probably won't go anywhere' and 'I should trust them', but that in the end I have a duty to my family, and our staff to stand up against this sort of attack. I told him that I am also not naïve, and that the system NAM is operating under is based on goodwill, and is therefore weak when these attacks happen. I let him know that if this does go the wrong way, and the committee decide I should be removed from NAM, I will not do this lying down and without a fight. A bit aggressive maybe, but Victor is protecting his position and the institution rather than a member's reputation here.

I think the general thrust of this is that there will probably be an investigation. I think the next step is for me to get a response ready to these 16 pages of BS (I've attached them again for your enjoyment) and get ready for being ostracized for a period of time while a bunch of good-intentioned people decide whether I'm of high enough moral fiber to stay in their gang.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 3:33 PM
To: 'keusch' <b6>; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <b6>; 'David Morens <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Subject: FW: follow-up from the NAM

Just keeping you abreast of what the NAM are saying. I don't have a response on my request for the specific policy that says I can't take part in NAM activities while these allegations are under review (I suspect there are none).

However I did get the weird email below saying I should keep all this confidential – maybe it's because Victor's seen your email Jerry.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015157
MORENS_NIH_031615
REL0000479513

I don't know if they realize that the Republicans already published the letter in full on their website! Maybe I should let her know that.

I also, ironically got a notice to cast my vote for NAM Home Secretary today, so I voted for this person's rival. I'm sure they'd be equally as opaque, but it's at least some empowerment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <b6>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015158
MORENS_NIH_031616
REL0000479513

Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: b6
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015159
MORENS_NIH_031617
REL0000479513

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 28 Jul 2021 10:48:44 AM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 28 Jul 2021 10:46:57 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
CC:	Robert Kessler [b6]; Sturchio, Jeff [b6]
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

Yes – I spoke with her off the record. She quotes me as 'someone with direct knowledge of the WHO work in Wuhan' or something.

Jerry's also quoted.

It's good to see a lot of the BS getting cleared, but I do think that the WHO DG's blatant politicking is being missed by many of these science-y commentators that are being quoted. A lot of them seem to be completely OK with a new team because, I guess, it gives them a chance to be involved – e.g. Wanda Markotter's comments about the current team being not geographically balanced – what a joke – Vietnam, Japan, Russia, Sudan, NZ – she just didn't bother to actually check if that's correct…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:42 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: [b6]
Subject: RE: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP

I love that picture of Tony. I'm attaching something Simone McCarthy just published in the S. China Morning Post. I discovered this morning that she had tried to get in touch with me the past two days, but I was focused on other things and not really looking at my inbox as I focused on my outbox. But she had something from my prior conversations with her to stick in there regarding the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022796
MORENS_NIH_043800
REL0000479515

bad decisions at WHO regarding the investigation.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 g >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <b6 ; Sturchio, Jeff <b6
b6
Subject: RE: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP

I wouldn't trust them either, given their history which I didn't know. I'll try to remember to copy Robert K, and ping me if I forget.

Many of these things come from our OD news sweeps, which go on 24-7. But they don't get anywhere near everything, as they are more interested in Ton's press coverage than science itself.

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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP

Thanks for sharing David. Please cc Robert Kessler in on these in case he also misses them. I'm also cc'ing Jeff Sturchio who's working with us to navigate the media attacks at the moment.

This reporter contacted me, and I refused to talk, even though I suspected he would do a decent job. I think I'm the person he says 'supports this sort of research but has been worn down by death threats'.

I actually like the tenor of the story – it's factually correct and points out the danger of people like Lipsitch and Ebright using a false premise to support their efforts to re-litigate 'gain of function'. It's good to see Lipsitch having to be factually correct here and agree that Rand Paul massively overstated their case!

One of the reasons I didn't speak with this reporter, by the way is that the journal (The Intercept) is one of the orgs that's FoIA'd 38 of EcoHealth's NIH grants and annual reports going back to 2001– just wasn't sure I could trust their motives!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

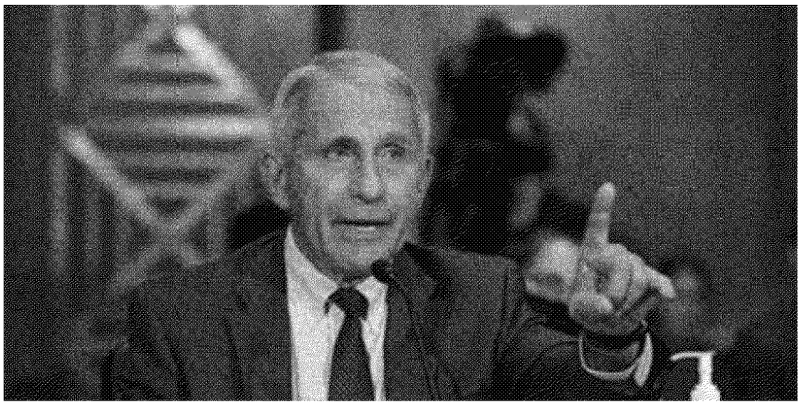
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6]
Subject: FW: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP

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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <gfolkers@niaid.nih.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:48 PM
Subject: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research
https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP

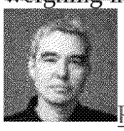


At a Senate hearing on July 20, 2021, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told Sen. Rand Paul that he resented the suggestion that he had lied to Congress. Photo: J. Scott Applewhite/Pool/AFP via Getty

Images

Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research

By politicizing the debate over virus-modifying research, the senator has thrilled conservatives but discouraged scientists from weighing in.



Robert Mackey

July 27 2021, 10:14 a.m.

A decadelong debate over pandemic preparedness that has divided some of the world's leading biologists into opposing camps, for and against so-called gain-of-function research — in which deadly pathogens that could cause pandemics are artificially enhanced for study in the lab — has all but ground to a halt in the past week, thanks to Sen. Rand Paul.

That's because the Republican senator from Kentucky politicized the argument last week, by cherry-picking expert opinions from critics of the research who call it too risky to pursue, to publicly accuse Dr. Anthony Fauci of lying to Congress, when he said that his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases had never funded gain-of-function studies at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China.

Paul's made-for-television broadside against Fauci thrilled Fox News hosts and colleagues like Rep. Jim Jordan, the Ohio Republican who has also pushed the debunked conspiracy theory that research financed by Fauci's agency, which some experts describe as gain-of-function, could have led to the development of SARS-CoV-2, the deadly coronavirus that causes the disease Covid-19, in the Wuhan lab. Fauci rejected Paul's claim that research carried out in Wuhan before 2017 with some support from the NIAID met the definition of gain-of-function and pointedly explained that it was impossible to make SARS-CoV-2 from the coronavirus used in that study.

Almost as soon as the heated exchange concluded, the senator's staff uploaded a truncated version of the video on his YouTube channel under the headline, "Dr. Fauci Caught Lying about NIH Funding in Wuhan."

That video was edited by Paul's staff so that it ends before Fauci responded to the senator's harangue by saying, "I totally resent the lie that you are now propagating, senator, because if you look at the viruses that were used in the experiments … it is molecularly impossible … to result in SARS-CoV-2."

On social networks, Republican operatives unconcerned with the facts — like Richard Grenell, the Twitter troll who served as Donald Trump's director of national intelligence for three months — cheered on Paul's attack.

But Paul's false claim that Fauci's supposed support for gain-of-function studies gave him "responsibility for 4 million people dying around the world from a pandemic," and the ensuing frenzy in the conservative media, also caused some previously outspoken biologists who have made the case against such experiments to fall silent.

In the wake of Paul's attack on Fauci, several prominent scientists who question the wisdom and safety of gain-of-function experiments — in which biologists deliberately create pandemic-causing pathogens in the lab in order to better prepare to combat them should they evolve in nature — refused to speak to me on the record. One after another, they said Paul's patently false claim that Fauci was to blame for the pandemic, and his selective outrage at gain-of-function research only when conducted in China, made it all but impossible for them to say anything about the pre-pandemic experiments in Wuhan without being vilified by partisans.

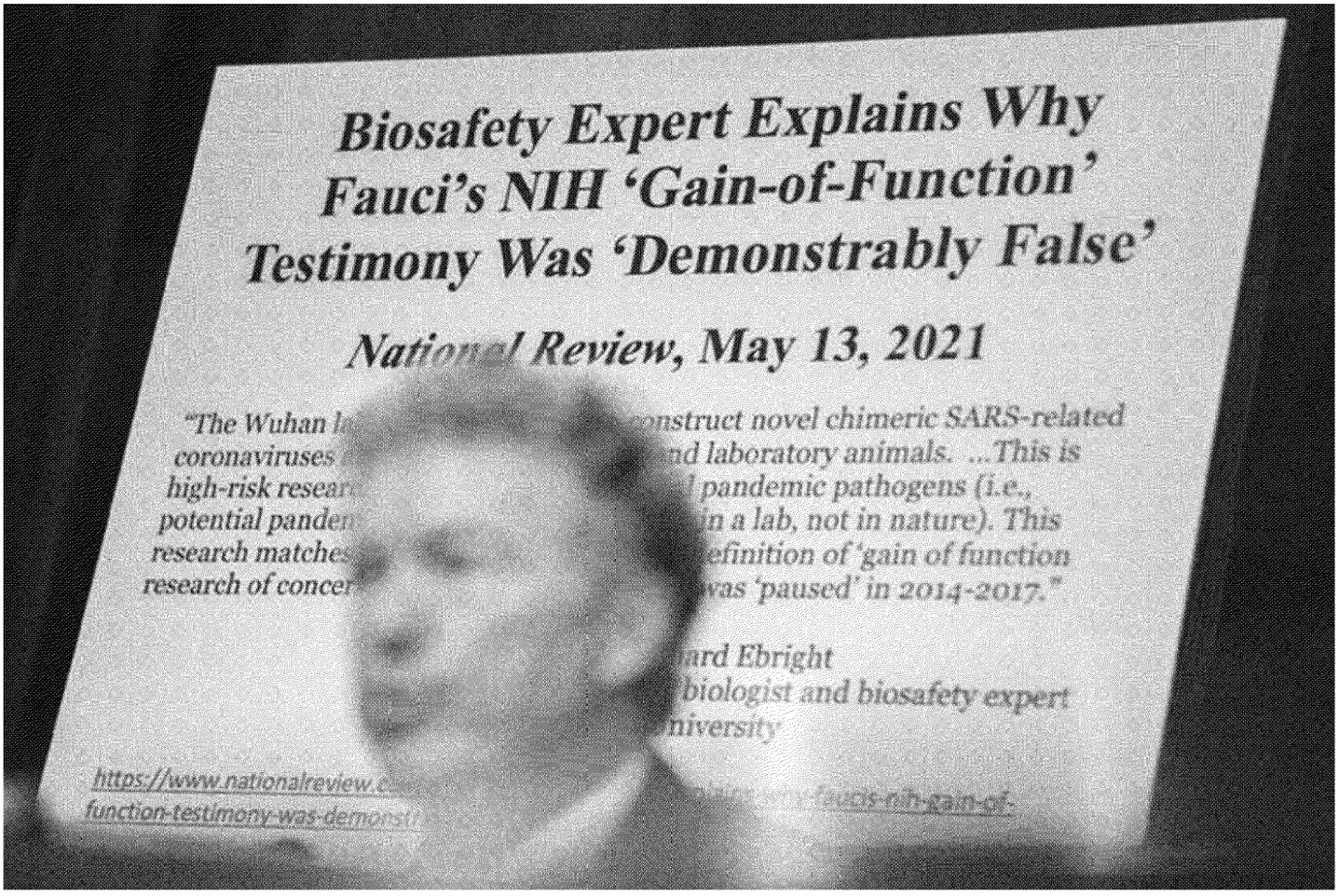
One biologist who supports such research told me that he would have liked the opportunity to correct what he called misinformation about the experiments, but had been worn down by death threats.

To recap, at a hearing in May, Paul first accused Fauci of having supported gain-of-function research in Wuhan, which the senator, who is also a doctor, misleadingly defined as "experimenting to enhance the coronavirus's ability to infect humans." In fact, the coronavirus that researchers experimented on between 2014 and 2017 at the Wuhan Institute, with some financial support from the NIAID, was from a strain found in bats that is not closely enough related to SARS-CoV-2 to have been used to fabricate the virus that causes Covid-19 in a lab.

Fauci also insisted that his agency, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, had never funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan.

When Fauci returned to the senate committee last week, Paul confronted him with the words of Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University and a longtime critic of gain-of-function studies, who told the conservative magazine National Review that Fauci's testimony in May was "demonstrably false," since, in Ebright's opinion, the experiments at the Wuhan Institute, indirectly funded by the NIAID as part of a project to head off a pandemic, were "unequivocally" gain-of-function in nature.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022800
MORENS_NIH_043804
REL0000479515



Sen. Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican, used a visual aid to accuse Dr. Anthony Fauci of lying to Congress during a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on July 20, 2021.
Photo: Stefani Reynolds-Pool/Getty Images

Fauci insisted that the biologist Paul cited was simply wrong, saying experts at the National Institutes of Health had evaluated the Wuhan project and concluded that the experiments there did not meet the criteria for gain-of-function research used by the United States government.

The exchange between Paul and Fauci got even more heated when the senator seemed to imply that this research funded by Fauci's agency could have led to the development of SARS-CoV-2, the deadly coronavirus that causes Covid-19, in the Wuhan lab.

As Fauci correctly noted, that speculation was wildly misleading, since it was "molecularly impossible" for the type of coronavirus used in the pre-2017 experiments to have been manipulated in the lab to create SARS-CoV-2.

On that point, even some of the most outspoken critics of gain-of-function research on potential pandemic pathogens agree with Fauci. Kevin Esvelt, an MIT biologist who told PolitiFact in May that the experiments conducted in the Wuhan study should be considered gain-of-function also emphasized that those experiments "definitely did NOT lead to the creation of SARS-CoV-2." (Esvelt, who worries that viruses developed through gain-of-function experiments in a lab could one day be used as weapons, told "The Open Mind" on PBS in March that whether the virus that caused the Covid-19 pandemic came from an animal or came from a lab, "it was not designed to be a weapon — because anyone good enough to make this thing could make a more devastating weapon.")

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022801
MORENS_NIH_043805
REL0000479515



Read Our Complete CoverageThe Coronavirus Crisis

Paul was also rebuked in May by Marc Lipsitch, a microbiologist and professor of epidemiology at Harvard University who brought together hundreds of scientists and experts in law and ethics in 2014 to call for a moratorium on gain-of-function experiments that could create highly transmissible, novel strains of dangerous viruses in laboratories.

Lipsitch wrote in a Twitter thread that in his attack on Fauci in May, Paul had "FALSELY" claimed that the working group Lipsitch assembled had "characterized work at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as gain-of-function." While he and many members of the working group "support proper investigation of SARS-CoV-2 origins including the lab leak hypothesis and continue to oppose many forms of GOF research," he added, "it is just fabrication to say we have made any statement as a group about work in Wuhan."

Fauci did not get a chance to explain during the hearing what the scientific basis was for the determination by NIAID biologists that the experiments conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, described in a paper published in 2017, were not subject to a temporary pause on the funding of gain-of-function research imposed during the Obama administration in 2014, which was lifted in 2017 after Trump became president.

But in a statement provided to The Intercept on Monday, NIAID explained the reasoning behind its review of the experiments conducted at the Wuhan Institute on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit in New York that works with researchers in China to study viruses that have the potential to jump from bats to humans. The agency wrote that its scientists had concluded the pre-2017 experiments in Wuhan were not barred by the temporary pause on gain-of-function research, "because they were not reasonably expected to increase transmissibility or virulence of these viruses in humans."

"Under the grant, EcoHealth Alliance proposed research to create chimeric viruses by placing a small portion of newly identified, evolutionarily distant, bat coronaviruses into another well characterized bat coronavirus that has never been demonstrated to infect humans called WIV1," NIAID wrote. "The purpose of this work was to examine whether the newly discovered viruses were able to use the human ACE2 receptor like WIV1 and other SARS-related coronaviruses already do. In the context of these experiments, this well-characterized bat coronavirus would be considered the parental strain against which the function of the new chimeric viruses would be assessed. With this comparison, the newly created chimeric viruses did not gain any function relative to the parental strain; the chimeric viruses did not replicate in cell culture any better than the parental WIV1. In addition, research that had been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals demonstrated that viruses similar to those proposed under the grant had reduced pathogenicity as compared to the parental viruses. For these reasons, it was not reasonably anticipated that the viruses involved in research under the grant would have enhanced pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route, and therefore did not meet the criteria for gain-of-function research described in the research funding pause."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 11:17:21 AM -0500
Sent: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 11:17:13 AM -0500
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6

Depends a lot on Tuesday's vote. At a minimum the Dems have to keep the Senate, but the House if it flips to the Rs will also continue to do some damage

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 10:11 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:

OMG, you too? And others too..... When will the madness end. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Nov 6, 2022, at 11:02, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 > wrote:

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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill list' posted on the Right wing anonymous internet site 4Chan. Someone posted the names of 6 virologists, including myself, and encouraged people who have had enough and were ready to commit suicide, to take go out and murder this group first. Even more horrific, they named my wife (who's got a different last name to mine, so is now traceable) and my eldest daughter, posting her name and University name also.

I'm traveling in Malaysia/Singapore with Janet this week, but have already contacted the FBI and both daughter's universities, but as you can imagine this is pretty awful, though sadly not unexpected.

I expect this will get worse after the mid-terms, when the truly heinous folks on the Right start the launch of their McCarthyesque witch hunts against scientists re. covid origins, vaccines, masks etc.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003697
MORENS_NIH_010609
REL0000479516

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; David Morens < b6
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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you**

know are safe.

Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).
Best regards,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]
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: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J_Sturchio@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>; Keusch, Gerald T <keusch@bu.edu>; Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>; Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>; Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>; David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>
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:

<u>Natural origins</u>
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?

- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak
- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans
- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013
- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"
- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses
- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and

integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the *Nature Medicine* correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the *Nature Medicine* correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003704
MORENS_NIH_010616
REL0000479516

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2021 3:24:54 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 12 Apr 2021 3:24:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]

I agree with Rich and David that your response is comprehensive, direct and evidence based, and the language is appropriately assertive when one believes in the information presented but not actually aggressive and directed at your interlocuter. Its hard for me to see how Lauer could do anything but raise his hands, shrug his shoulders, and try out a wry but friendly "forgive me" smile. But I wouldn't put it past him.

I am writing Jon Cohen and Meredith Wadman with a couple of thoughts.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>
Subject: RE: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Peter:

I will certainly keep this private until you feel it is appropriate to post it.

The response seems to me to be very comprehensive and I hope it satisfies the NIH.

Good luck

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]>
Subject: FW: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013746
MORENS_NIH_025914
REL0000479518

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear colleagues – here's my response to Michael Lauer's depressingly impossible conditions on the release of funding of our grant (Attached letter and Email chain below). Thanks for your suggestions re. edits.

It's too long and waffly of course, and probably too much information, but I've been careful to write it as if it were one day going to be made public so that it lays out all the details. I'm expecting it'll be released after a FoIA request, or a leak from NIH (as they have done repeatedly), or if the House Committee on Science, Space & Technology takes the issue up and demands to see the letters. Note that the Republican leaders of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce (among others) have already asked for this.

Because the goal here is to try to give NIH a valid rationale for reinstating funding, I'm hoping you won't make this letter public yet, but I will have no problem with it being posted on the NLCampaigns website if and when it looks like others are going to post it, or I get a negative response from NIH.

Thanks again for your help – it's been a very rough few weeks as the incredibly hard work of the WHO mission has been undermined in a coordinated, clearly well-funded campaign here. I hope politics will not win over science, and I'm ready to continue the fight…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:36 PM
To: 'Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]' b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6 >; 'Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]' <b6 >
Subject: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Lauer,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013747
MORENS_NIH_025915
REL0000479518

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
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
Phone b6
Email b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013748
MORENS_NIH_025916
REL0000479518

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:02 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ***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 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

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel.: + b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 11:28:20 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 11:28:06 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]

That's exactly what needs to be said!

The definition of a P3CO relevant pathogen is as follows (from https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf):
Section II. Scope and Definitions For the purposes of this HHS P3CO Framework:
A. A potential pandemic pathogen (PPP) is a pathogen that satisfies both of the following:
1. It is likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations; and
2. It is likely highly virulent and likely to cause significant morbidity and/or mortality in humans.
B. An enhanced PPP is defined as a PPP resulting from the enhancement of the transmissibility and/or virulence of a pathogen. Enhanced PPPs do not include naturally occurring pathogens that are circulating in or have been recovered from nature, regardless of their pandemic potential

How on any planet is a bat-CoV that's never been seen in people, "likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations"? The scientists in the Intercept article that thought our work was GoF seem to have been operating on the assumption that any growth or impact of a chimeric virus at any time above the parental strain means it's GoF. They've forgotten that 1) these are bat viruses have never been shown to infect people, and that the growth rates of the parental strain caught up with it by the end of the expt.

Add to that the never-mentioned point that the spike proteins are taken from a bat CoV that presumably is alive and well in large colonies of bats flying over people's houses every night in China. By doing this expt without culturing that virus, we reduce risk. By identifying that virus as a potential spillover risk, we can work with these communities to reduce exposure. It's exactly what we'll need to do if we want to beat future EIDs before they become pandemics!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:14 AM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >
Subject: Re: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

I just followed up with Simone McCarthy who is writing due SCMP on the GoF issues and noted the Intercept crap and the virus growth curve. I had previously sent her my perspective via email. Now I said the sinister implications of the intercept take was pure BS because the virus level was different only at the first time point, it was not a human pathogen, it was a legal and legitimate experiment by NIH regulations, EHA reported it as they were supposed to, and there are no scientifically valid extrapolations to human virulence or risk.

I also said it was important for her to set the record straight What did I miss and I'll be happy to follow up before she posts her article.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 13, 2021, at 10:48 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:
>
> Never heard of them and presume they come from the Dark Side of the moon, pun intended…
> d
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Sep 13, 2021, at 00:16, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:
> >
> > I was tempted to respond - it really irritated me for some reason - more
> > than others. Maybe because he (almost certainly a he) comes across as
> > otherwise intelligent...
> >
> > In the end I deleted and blocked...as I'm supposed to!
> >
> > Cheers,
> >
> > Peter
> >
> > Peter Daszak
> > President
> >
> > EcoHealth Alliance
> > 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> > New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007857
MORENS_NIH_017191
REL0000479519

USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6
Subject: FW: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

I finally made contact with Pink Floyd and it's a nameless email. I took the last part to heart, had a nice day, said FU to Pink Floyd, and had a lovely dinner out here in the Berkshires.

Have either of you encountered this one before?

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University, Boston MA 02118

-----Original Message-----
From: b6
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

Dear Professor, Mister/Madam

Congratulations to your publication (Calisher et al. (2020)) in the journal THE LANCET which has attracted many attentions.

However, you have to explain seriously this report about your publication (which has been published in The Daily Telegraph in UK): Revealed: How scientists who dismissed Wuhan lab theory are linked to Chinese researchers Cover-up alleged over Lancet letter that effectively shut down scientific debate into whether coronavirus was manipulated or leaked from lab

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/10/revealed- scientists-dismissed-wuhan-lab-theory-linked-chinese/

Reference:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007858
MORENS_NIH_017192
REL0000479519

Calisher, C., Carroll, D., Colwell, R., Corley, R. B., Daszak, P., Drosten, C., ... & Turner, M. (2020). Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19. The Lancet, 395(10226), e42-e43.

I hope you can accept my interview and give a serious answer in the public media.

Have a nice day!

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:35:11 PM -0400
Subject:	Francis Collins on CNBC today
From:	Peter Daszak <[b6]>
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013120
MORENS_NIH_024927
REL0000479525

investigation into the origin of the coronavirus has gone "backwards."

"The vast evidence from other perspectives says no, this was a naturally occurring virus," Collins said. "Not to say that it could not have been under study secretly at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and got out of there, we don't know about that. But the virus itself does not have the earmarks of having been created intentionally by human work."

The WHO investigation has been made harder by China's refusal to participate, says Collins.

"I think China basically refused to consider another WHO investigation and just said 'nope not interested'," Collins told CNBC's Squawk Box.

"Wouldn't it be good if they'd actually open up their lab books and let us know what they were actually doing there and find out more about those cases of people who got sick in November of 2019 about which we really don't know enough," Collins said.

U.S. intelligence reports first reported by the Wall Street Journal indicated that in November 2019, three workers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill with symptoms similar to those seen in Covid-19 infections, a report that China said was "completely untrue."

About three months ago, President Joe Biden initiated an investigation of his own and gave his intelligence community 90 days to further the investigation the virus' origins and report the findings. The deadline is Tuesday.

"It will be an interesting week because tomorrow is the day of the 90-day deadline that President Biden set for the intelligence community to do all their poking around that they could to see if they could come up with anymore insight as to how this virus got started in China," Collins said.

Most of the information gathered will likely remain classified, but some information from the report will be released, according to Collins.

"We don't know what they're going to come up with either, but we're intensely interested," Collins said.

Collins also weighed in on the debate over whether or not the U.S. funded so-called gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab, a debate that Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and medical advisor to the president, Dr. Anthony Fauci, have engaged in time and time again. Gain-of-function research is when scientists take a pathogen and make it more contagious, deadly or both to study how to combat it.

"The kind of gain-of-function research that's under very careful scrutiny is when you take a pathogen for humans, and you do something with it that would enhance its virulence or its transmissibility," Collins said. "They were not studying a pathogen that was a pathogen for humans, these are bat viruses."

Some of the research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology that was funded, in part, by the NIH through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance studied how bat viruses could infect humans.

"So by the strict definition, and this was look at exquisitely carefully by all the reviewers of that research in anticipation that this might come up, was that this did not meet the official description of what's called gain-of-function research that requires oversight," Collins said. "I know this has gotten lots of attention, but I think it's way out of place."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

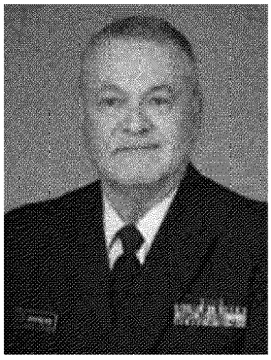
---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b6; Keusch, Jerry b6
b6 >; Kessler, Robert b6) b6
Subject: FW: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away



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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
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_013123
MORENS_NIH_024930
REL0000479525

The Trump-appointed former director of the CDC apparently also misattributed the findings of a military contractor's report to Harvard. The Harvard study he links to analyzed satellite images of hospital parking lots in Wuhan, but it did not once mention the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It was also criticized for its poor dataset, abuse of statistical methods, and mistranslation.
The analysis of traffic outside the Wuhan institute used commercial satellite imagery and phone location data to conclude that traffic was unusually thin around the Wuhan institute and was the result of containment efforts following a hazardous event. But the report's key assertions were found to be false as early as June last year.
These are just a few examples, from one article, showing the challenges of investigating the origins of the coronavirus without being in China and without the country's full cooperation.
The closest thing to a field study the world has seen was the World Health Organization (WHO) trip to China early this year, but the global health body has complained about not being able to access the complete raw data from the early COVID-19 patients that could give researchers insights into how the virus emerged.
Last month, the WHO chief urged Beijing to share the data, but Chinese officials said the information could not be disclosed due to patients' privacy. Some scientists are not convinced by the argument, citing the possibility of disclosing the data while keeping the patients' anonymous.
Beijing's obsession with a theory that the coronavirus could have been brought into China through frozen food imports has also raised doubts. Officials have kept calling for more research into such potential cold-chain transmission, although few scientists abroad have found it credible enough to justify further investigation.
"In my opinion, it's even less likely than lab origin," Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, told VICE World News. Rasmussen, who has argued in favor of a natural origin of the coronavirus, said the Chinese government might be trying to distract people from the wildlife trade that could have led to a virus zoonotic spillover.
Scientists say only greater transparency will help Chinese authorities fend off all these suspicions. "We are being asked to take their words for it, without seeing any data," said Alina Chan, a biologist at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has promoted the lab leak hypothesis. Chan told VICE World News she would like to see all of the sequences of the pathogens that were processed at the Wuhan lab. If the data could not be made public, she said, they should at least be reviewed by an international team of scientists.
"This situation is setting precedents for how future outbreaks are tracked," she said. "If every single country does this, and refuses to let international investigators check where the virus came from, we would just be facing a future where viruses are just exploding everywhere, and we are just getting a new pandemic every five or ten years."
Some other scientists still maintain that the lab leak theory is unlikely, in contrast with what they have called a "substantial body of scientific evidence" supporting a natural origin for the coronavirus, according to a peer-reviewed paper published in *Cell* this week.
Still, with few new data points to inform the origins probe, scientists on both sides of the debate have called for greater transparency.
WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in July said the lack of raw data on the early days of the outbreak was hampering the investigations into the origin of the virus and urged China to be more transparent. Tedros suggested further studies into Chinese laboratories in the next phase of studies.
But the Chinese government would not feel comfortable with this degree of transparency. The Communist Party leadership is used to conducting investigations and making decisions behind closed doors, and sees the call for openness as a political threat.
"That is not atypical in China's crisis management," Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told VICE World News. "The U.S. could push for more transparency, but they fail to recognize that the lack of transparency itself is part of the authoritarian governance in the country."
This mindset could hurt China's reputation—the pandemic is not a small crisis but one that has upended almost everyone's life.
"Even if the virus is caused by a natural spillover event," Huang said, "when you don't show transparency, when you are perceived as unwilling to share the data, people naturally will think you have something to hide."
The Chinese government has remained intransigent to the mounting calls for more transparency.
At the press conference last month, Chinese officials said they were "shocked" to hear about WHO's proposal for fresh audits into Chinese labs, adding the suggestion indicated "disrespect for common sense and an arrogant attitude toward science."
The same month, state media quoted a Facebook post by a self-claimed Swiss biologist named Wilson Edwards as saying that researchers faced intimidation from the U.S. for supporting the WHO-China origin-tracing study. The Swiss embassy said no such person exists.
It's unclear whether the U.S. intelligence probe, which was condemned by Chinese state media as a "political witch-hunt," would yield anything more than circumstantial evidence.
By the time a preliminary report was drafted, the intelligence community was still divided over the lab leak theory and the natural origin one, CNN reported this month. The outlet cited a source as saying that the draft contained "nothing too earth shattering."
In September 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology shut off public access to its database, which holds thousands of genetic sequences of bat coronaviruses it studied.
Shi Zhengli, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the institute, said the online database was shut down after cyberattacks—believe it or not, that's the answer to ex-CDC director Robert Redfield's first question. But almost two years later, the database remains offline. It's no wonder that people are asking questions.

Follow Alan Wong and Viola Zhou on Twitter.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013125
MORENS_NIH_024932
REL0000479525

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 2:21:49 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 2:21:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Initial response from Lauer
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013815
MORENS_NIH_026155
REL0000479527

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:06 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich < [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Initial response from Lauer

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
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Subject: Re: Regarding R01AI110964

Many thanks again Dr. Daszak. We are continuing our review, but in the meantime please see attached. The third (last)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013816
MORENS_NIH_026156
REL0000479527

attachment is what's new.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: b6
Email: b6

From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 5:19 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <
b6
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
b6 b6
b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 4:39 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013817
MORENS_NIH_026157
REL0000479527

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
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
Phone: b6
Email:

From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:02 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ***[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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013818
MORENS_NIH_026158
REL0000479527

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 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

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Tue, 15 Jun 2021 9:16:58 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 15 Jun 2021 9:14:27 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Keusch, Gerald T b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Rich Roberts b6
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

You've got it exactly right Jerry. I've had a tough day – trying to hang on to a funder this afternoon, then trying to talk sense to a former board member who said I've brought ecohealth into the crosshairs. I told him our work did that, not me, but he says I came out too strong on the 'debate' from the beginning. So frustrating, not to mention this is no debate, these are two hypotheses with very imbalanced weights of evidence, in fact one has zero evidence. He wasn't listening – just buys into the idea that China was probably 'up to something'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Rich Roberts b6
Subject: RE: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

There is always the clash between special knowledge and expertise versus conflicts of interest because of personal bias, at least in the minds (such as they are) of some who see the world differently. Our only recourse is to declare our potential for a true biased conflict of interest to be open and truthful and to insist, like a juror, that we can review evidence and reach conclusions based on the evidence obtained and presented. Otherwise there is no reason to become trained and expert in any area of science. As in the past just claim special knowledge and expertise – or the not very distant past like Trumps claim to know more than everybody else when he propped people with COVID ingest or be injected with bleach to kill the virus (it can't grow in a dead person killed by bleach) – and skip the years and the costs of education and training.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016850
MORENS_NIH_035006
REL0000479529

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: RE: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

Really good to see this – the 2nd sentence in particular is extremely valuable:

"However, misinformation, unsubstantiated claims, and personal attacks on scientists surrounding the different theories of how the virus emerged are unacceptable, and are sowing public confusion and risk undermining the public's trust in science and scientists, including those still leading efforts to bring the pandemic under control."

The comment about "minimizing conflicts of interest" and implying that natural origin and lab leak are just two scenarios worth investigating, is of less use – the WHO mission is the only viable game in town to do this work, and I've been accused of having 'egregious' conflicts and this was pointed to in the Science letter that David Relman coordinated. Can't help this undermines my role in the work. It also undermines the WHO work, which clearly indicated that one of these scenarios was far more likely. Given the paper in Nature on live wildlife trade in Wuhan this week, and the paper in Cell on another close virus from bats in China, it seems one is clearly more worth our concern than the other – that's how science works, is it not – hypothesis, data, thesis (conclusion)…?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: <b6>
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: FW: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016851
MORENS_NIH_035007
REL0000479529

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
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:20 PM
Subject: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies
https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies

Statement | June 15, 2021

The origin of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and the circumstances of the first cases of human infection, remain unknown. Science is our best tool to ascertain, or to understand to the extent possible, the origins of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, which could help prevent future pandemics. However, misinformation, unsubstantiated claims, and personal attacks on scientists surrounding the different theories of how the virus emerged are unacceptable, and are sowing public confusion and risk undermining the public's trust in science and scientists, including those still leading efforts to bring the pandemic under control. We urge that investigations into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 be guided by scientific principles, including reliance on verifiable data, reproducibility, objectivity, transparency, peer review, international collaboration, minimizing conflicts of interest, findings based on evidence, and clarity regarding uncertainties. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, there are multiple scenarios that could, in principle, explain its origin with varying degrees of plausibility based on our current understanding. These scenarios range from natural zoonotic spillover (when a virus spreads from non-human animals to humans) to those that are associated with laboratory work. Scientists need to be able to evaluate all of these scenarios, and all viable hypotheses, with credible data. Data accessibility, transparency, and full cooperation from China, of course, will be essential for a proper and thorough investigation.

Although much still needs to be done to stop the pandemic, particularly in developing nations, science has made remarkable headway, especially through the rapid development of effective vaccines. The same scientific robustness, rigor, and cooperation should be applied to examining important questions about how the pandemic began.

Marcia McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
John L. Anderson
President, National Academy of Engineering
Victor J. Dzau
President, National Academy of Medicine

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Sat, 28 May 2022 3:32:45 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 28 May 2022 3:32:29 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Sachs: Did US Biotechnology Help to Create COVID-19?
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
To:	Roberts, Rich [b6];
CC:	Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] [b6];

It's called weaponized health and science communication, all half truths carefully woven to build a false narrative

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 28, 2022, at 2:27 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Jeff doesn't know when to give up. This is his latest post that comes around frequently

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Sonia Sachs [b6]>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Sachs: Did US Biotechnology Help to Create COVID-19?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Did US Biotechnology Help to Create COVID-19?

Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Sachs | May 27, 2022 | Project Syndicate

NEW YORK – When US President Joe Biden asked the United States Intelligence Community to determine the origin of COVID-19, its conclusion was remarkably understated but nonetheless shocking. In a one-page summary, the IC made clear that it could not rule out the possibility that SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) emerged from a laboratory.

But even more shocking for Americans and the world is an additional point on which the IC remained mum: If the virus did indeed result from laboratory research and experimentation, it was almost certainly created with US biotechnology and know-how that had been made available to researchers in China.

To learn the complete truth about the origins of COVID-19, we need a full, independent investigation not only into the outbreak in Wuhan, China, but also into the relevant US scientific research, international outreach, and technology licensing in the lead-up to the pandemic.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000746
MORENS_NIH_006099
REL0000479530

We recently called for such an investigation in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Some might dismiss our reasons for doing so as a "conspiracy theory." But let us be crystal clear: If the virus did emerge from a laboratory, it almost surely did so accidentally in the normal course of research, possibly going undetected via asymptomatic infection.

It is of course also still possible that the virus had a natural origin. The bottom line is that nobody knows. That is why it is so important to investigate all the relevant information contained in databases available in the US.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the US government has pointed an accusatory finger at China. But while it is true that the first observed COVID-19 cases were in Wuhan, the full story of the outbreak could involve America's role in researching coronaviruses and in sharing its biotechnology with others around the world, including China.

US scientists who work with SARS-like coronaviruses regularly create and test dangerous novel variants with the aim of developing drugs and vaccines against them. Such "gain-of-function" research has been conducted for decades, but it has always been controversial, owing to concerns that it could result in an accidental outbreak, or that the techniques and technologies for creating new viruses could end up in the wrong hands. It is reasonable to ask whether SARS-CoV-2 owes its remarkable infectivity to this broader research effort.

Unfortunately, US authorities have sought to suppress this very question. Early in the epidemic, a small group of virologists queried by the US National Institutes of Health told the NIH leadership that SARS-CoV-2 might have arisen from laboratory research, noting that the virus has unusual features that virologists in the US have been using in experiments for years – often with support from the NIH.

How do we know what NIH officials were told, and when? Because we now have publicly available information released by the NIH in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. We know that on February 1, 2020, the NIH held a conference call with a group of top virologists to discuss the possible origin of the virus. On that call, several of the researchers pointed out that laboratory manipulation of the virus was not only possible, but according to some, even likely. At that point, the NIH should have called for an urgent

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000747
MORENS_NIH_006100
REL0000479530

independent investigation. Instead, the NIH has sought to dismiss and discredit this line of inquiry.

HEADS IN THE SAND

Within days of the February 1 call, a group of virologists, including some who were on it, prepared the first draft of a paper on the "Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2." The final draft was published a month later, in March 2020. Despite the initial observations on February 1 that the virus showed signs of possible laboratory manipulation, the March paper concluded that there was overwhelming evidence that it had emerged from nature.

The authors claimed that the virus could not possibly have come from a laboratory because "the genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone." Yet the single footnote (number 20) backing up that key claim refers to a paper from 2014, which means that the authors' supposedly "irrefutable evidence" was at least five years out of date.

Owing to their refusal to support an independent investigation of the lab-leak hypothesis, the NIH and other US federal government agencies have been subjected to a wave of FOIA requests from a range of organizations, including US Right to Know and *The Intercept*. These FOIA disclosures, as well as internet searches and "whistleblower" leaks, have revealed some startling information.

Consider, for example, a March 2018 grant proposal submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) by EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) and researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and the University of North Carolina (UNC). On page 11, the applicants explain in detail how they intend to alter the genetic code of bat coronaviruses to insert precisely the feature that is the most unusual part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Although DARPA did not approve this grant, the work may have proceeded anyway. We just don't know. But, thanks to another FOIA request, we do know that this group carried out similar gain-of-function experiments on another coronavirus, the one that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

In yet other cases, FOIA disclosures have been heavily redacted, including a remarkable effort to obscure 290 pages of documents going back to February 2020, including the *Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research* drafted that April by

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000748
MORENS_NIH_006101
REL0000479530

the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Such extensive redactions deeply undermine public trust in science, and have only served to invite additional urgent questions from researchers and independent investigators.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE

Here are ten things that we do know.

First, the SARS-CoV-2 genome is distinguished by a particular 12-nucleotide sequence (the genetic code) that serves to increase its infectivity. The specific amino acid sequence directed by this insertion has been much discussed and is known as a furin cleavage site (FCS).

Second, the FCS has been a target of cutting-edge research since 2006, following the original SARS outbreak of 2003-04. Scientists have long understood that the FCS holds the key to these viruses' infectivity and pathophysiology.

Third, SARS-CoV-2 is the only virus in the family of SARS-like viruses (sarbecoviruses) known to have an FCS. Interestingly, the specific form of the FCS that is present in SARS-CoV-2 (eight amino acids encoded by 24 nucleotides) is shared with a human sodium channel that has been studied in US labs.

Fourth, the FCS was already so well known as a driver of transmissibility and virulence that a group of US scientists submitted a proposal to the US government in 2018 to study the effect of inserting an FCS into SARS-like viruses found in bats. Although the dangers of this kind of work have been highlighted for some time, these bat viruses were somehow considered to be in a lower-risk category. This exempted them from NIH gain-of-function guidelines, thereby enabling NIH-funded experiments to be carried out at the inadequate BSL-2 safety level.

Fifth, the NIH was a strong supporter of such gain-of-function research, much of which was performed using US-developed biotechnology and executed within an NIH-funded three-way partnership between the EHA, the WIV, and UNC.

Sixth, in 2018, a leading US scientist pursuing this research argued that laboratory manipulation was vital for drug and vaccine discovery, but that increased regulation could stymie progress. Many within the virology community

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000749
MORENS_NIH_006102
REL0000479530

continue to resist sensible calls for enhanced regulation of the most high-risk virus manipulation, including the establishment of a national regulatory body independent of the NIH.

Seventh, the virus was very likely circulating a lot earlier than the standard narrative that dates awareness of the outbreak to late December 2019. We still do not know when parts of the US government became aware of the outbreak, but some scientists were aware of the outbreak as of mid-December.

Eighth, the NIH knew as early as February 1, 2020, that the virus could have emerged as a consequence of NIH-funded laboratory research, but it did not disclose that fundamental fact to the public or to the US Congress.

Ninth, extensive sampling by Chinese authorities of animals in Wuhan wet markets and in the wild has found not a single wild animal harboring the SARS-CoV-2 virus. At the same time, there is no indication that the NIH has requested the laboratory records of US agencies, academic centers, and biotech companies involved in researching and manipulating SARS-like coronaviruses.

Tenth, the IC has not explained why at least some of the US intelligence agencies do in fact believe that a laboratory release was either the most likely or at least a possible origin of the virus.

TIME FOR TRANSPARENCY

Given the questions that remain unanswered, we are calling on the US government to conduct a bipartisan investigation. We may never understand the origin of SARS-CoV-2 without opening the books of the relevant federal agencies (including the NIH and the Department of Defense), the laboratories they support, academic institutions that store and archive viral sequence data, and biotechnology companies.

A key objective of the investigation would be to shed light on a basic question: Did US researchers undertake research or help their Chinese counterparts to undertake research to insert an FCS into a SARS-like virus, thereby playing a possible role in the creation of novel pathogens like the one that led to the current pandemic?

Investigations into COVID-19's origins should no longer be secretive ventures led by the IC. The process must be transparent, with all relevant information

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000750
MORENS_NIH_006103
REL0000479530

being released publicly for use by independent scientific researchers. It seems clear to us that there has been a concerted effort to suppress information regarding the earliest events in the outbreak, and to hinder the search for additional evidence that is clearly available within the US. We suggest that a panel of independent researchers in relevant disciplines be created and granted access to all pertinent data in order to advise the US Congress and the public.

There is a good chance that we can learn more about the origins of this virus without waiting on China or any other country, simply by looking in the US. We believe such an inquiry is long overdue.

https://www.project- syndicate.org/onpoint/did- us-technology- help-create-covid-19-in-china-by-neil-l-harrison-and-jeffrey-d-sachs-2022-05





Copyright © 2022 Sonia Sachs, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this because you have expressed interest.

My mailing address is:
Sonia Sachs
61 Claremont Ave
New York, NY 10027
Add us to your address book

Did you receive this from a friend and want to sign up?
Sign up for future mailings here.

View the last 20 articles here.
Visit JeffSachs.org for an archive of articles, chapters, books and videos.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.



Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:40:59 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:40:18 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6

b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Mon, May 8, 2023 at 3:41 PM
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >, Roberts, Rich b6 >, Hall, Mary Ann b6 >, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >, b6 >, Alison Andre b6 >

I'm available at the same times as Jerry – I'm on the same FAO call.
I'll pencil them in.

Just noting that these are Central Time…for those of us on the East Coast.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009710
MORENS_NIH_020220
REL0000479535

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cf129132c1e224ae988f808db8a11a442%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=OcFh4vkI3Buzip%2Fa2r6qCEaDWV027%2BZr04h0ln8gVsU%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hall, Mary Ann
b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; b6
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

I'm OK at 10 or 11 on the 19th. I'm in an FAO briefing on COVID origins in the afternoon, potentially starting at 1 so that is problematic.

The 20th is OK.

So is the 21st but its best to pick a date when Rich is available to join. Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Hall, Mary Ann [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6] >; [b6]
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

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hall, Mary Ann b6 >
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; b6
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cf129132c1e224ae988f808db8a11a442%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=GwXAFh5zmZ2PFbH2D4U6E1hl8nAA%2By3sHKFMEVdYXFM%3D &reserved=0

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; b6
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cf129132c1e224ae988f808db8a11a442%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=GwXAFh5zmZ2PFbH2D4U6E1hl8nAA%2By3sHKFMEVdYXFM%3D &reserved=0

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >
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: b6 | M: b6
b6 |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F

&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cf129132c1e224ae988f808db8a11a442%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=GwXAFh5zmZ2PFbH2D4U6E1hl8nAA%2By3sHKFMEVdYXFM%3D &reserved=0

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura
[b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;
Rich Roberts [b6]>; Hall, Mary Ann [b6] >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

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_009717
MORENS_NIH_020227
REL0000479535

Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:07:47 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:07:14 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg; image021.jpg; image022.jpg; image023.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg; image021.jpg; image022.jpg; image023.jpg

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
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
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < [b6] 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003706
MORENS_NIH_010618
REL0000479536

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.
- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that "*EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.
- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003707
MORENS_NIH_010619
REL0000479536

already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.

- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis.*" ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to***

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003708
MORENS_NIH_010620
REL0000479536

damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.

- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV- UNC collaboration *was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses* and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMED and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.***

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003709
MORENS_NIH_010621
REL0000479536

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 David Moren b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003712
MORENS_NIH_010624
REL0000479536

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: David Morens <b6 Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6 Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6 g >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003713
MORENS_NIH_010625
REL0000479536

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003715
MORENS_NIH_010627
REL0000479536

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003716
MORENS_NIH_010628
REL0000479536

> "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.
>
> "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003717
MORENS_NIH_010629
REL0000479536

b6

Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003718
MORENS_NIH_010630
REL0000479536

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE

OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003720
MORENS_NIH_010632
REL0000479536

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging

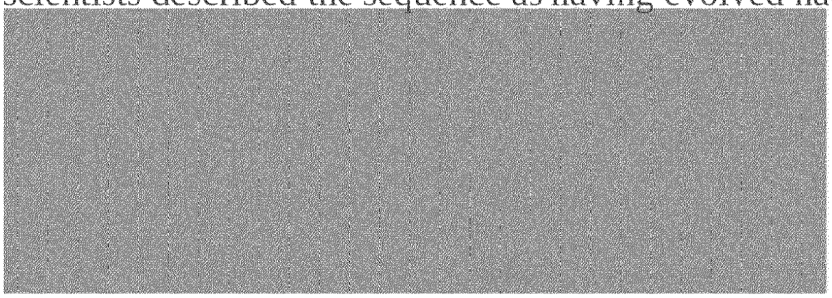
pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

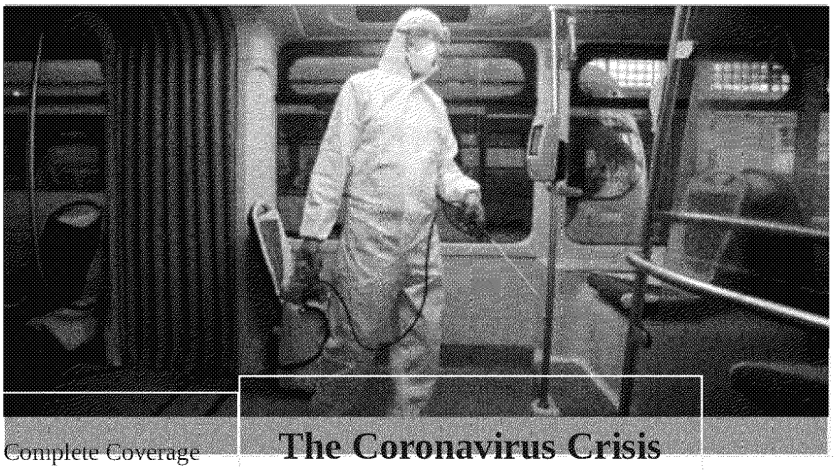
A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_003722
MORENS_NIH_010634
REL0000479536



Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003724
MORENS_NIH_010636
REL0000479536

sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

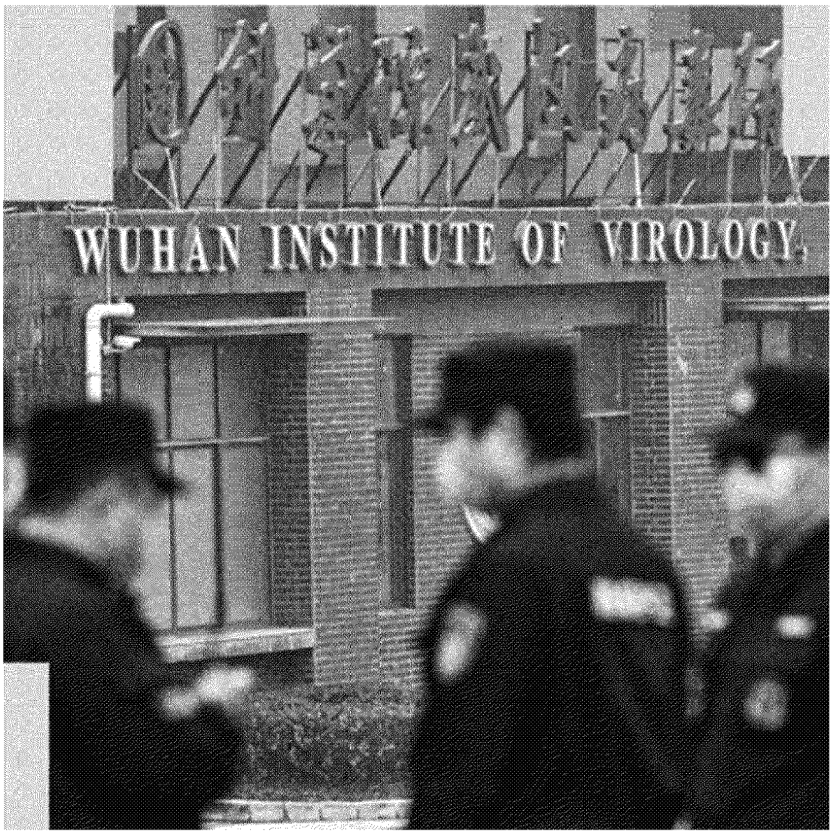
"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003725
MORENS_NIH_010637
REL0000479536

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003726
MORENS_NIH_010638
REL0000479536

represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003728
MORENS_NIH_010640
REL0000479536

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003729
MORENS_NIH_010641
REL0000479536

“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003730
MORENS_NIH_010642
REL0000479536

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

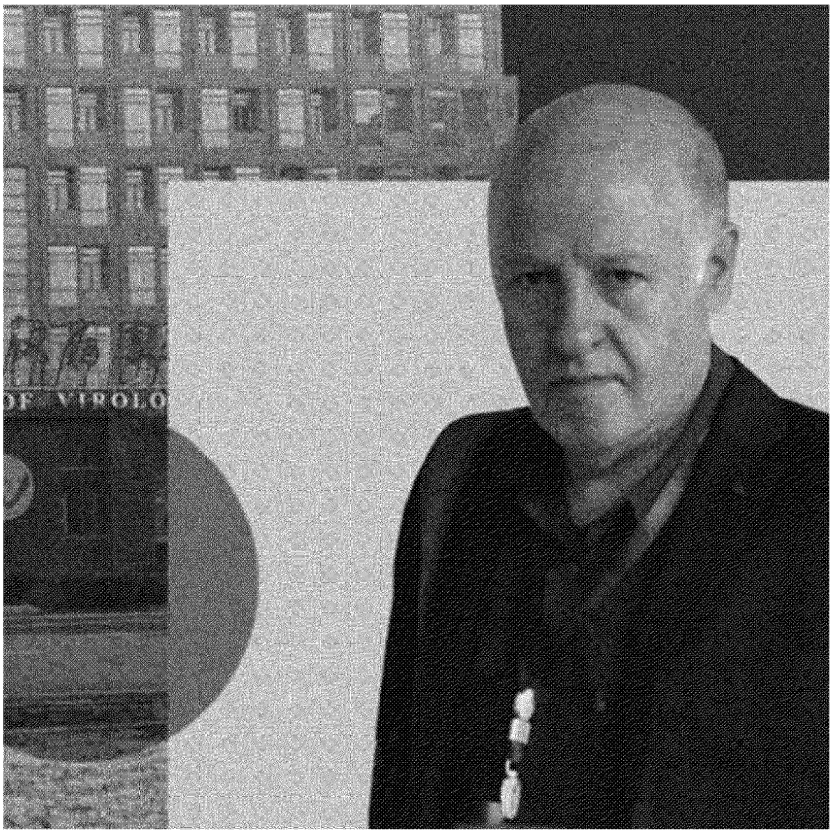
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003732
MORENS_NIH_010644
REL0000479536

Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003733
MORENS_NIH_010645
REL0000479536

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003734
MORENS_NIH_010646
REL0000479536

President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering,
Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003735
MORENS_NIH_010647
REL0000479536

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:
>
> This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.
>
> Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.
>
> Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.
>
> It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….
>
> PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD
Subject: RE: FW: Query from Ne
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disa I know that Dr. Bloom is making th reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducte packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003737
MORENS_NIH_010649
REL0000479536

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; peter hotez b6 Roberts, Rich < b6
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** b6
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens b6

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

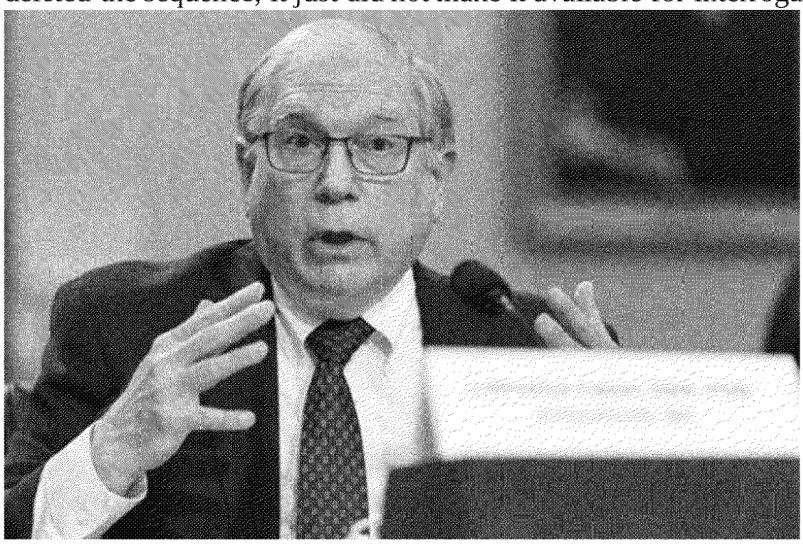
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003739
MORENS_NIH_010651
REL0000479536

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

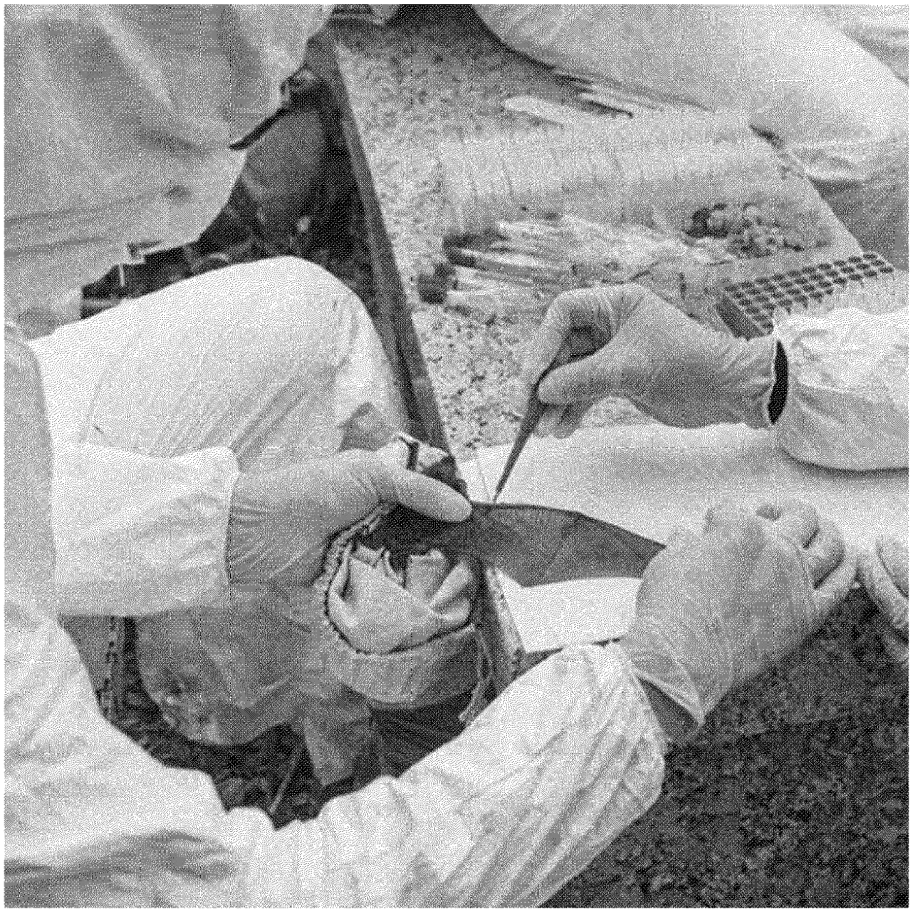
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.
Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you

received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Sat, 28 May 2022 3:27:32 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 28 May 2022 3:27:27 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Sachs: Did US Biotechnology Help to Create COVID-19?
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; David Morens b6 b6

Jeff doesn't know when to give up. This is his latest post that comes around frequently

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Sonia Sachs b6
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Sachs: Did US Biotechnology Help to Create COVID-19?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Did US Biotechnology Help to Create COVID-19?

Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Sachs | May 27, 2022 | Project Syndicate

NEW YORK – When US President Joe Biden asked the United States Intelligence Community to determine the origin of COVID-19, its conclusion was remarkably understated but nonetheless shocking. In a one-page summary, the IC made clear that it could not rule out the possibility that SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) emerged from a laboratory.

But even more shocking for Americans and the world is an additional point on which the IC remained mum: If the virus did indeed result from laboratory research and experimentation, it was almost certainly created with US biotechnology and know-how that had been made available to researchers in China.

To learn the complete truth about the origins of COVID-19, we need a full, independent investigation not only into the outbreak in Wuhan, China, but also into the relevant US scientific research, international outreach, and technology licensing in the lead-up to the pandemic.

We recently called for such an investigation in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Some might dismiss our reasons for doing so as a "conspiracy theory." But let us be crystal clear: If the virus did emerge from a laboratory, it almost surely did so accidentally in the normal course of research, possibly going undetected via asymptomatic infection.

It is of course also still possible that the virus had a natural origin. The bottom line is that nobody knows. That is why it is so important to investigate all the relevant information contained in databases available in the US.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the US government has pointed an accusatory finger at China. But while it is true that the first observed COVID-19 cases were in Wuhan, the full story of the outbreak could involve America's role in researching coronaviruses and in sharing its biotechnology with others around the world, including China.

US scientists who work with SARS-like coronaviruses regularly create and test dangerous novel variants with the aim of developing drugs and vaccines against them. Such "gain-of-function" research has been conducted for decades, but it has always been controversial, owing to concerns that it could result in an accidental outbreak, or that the techniques and technologies for creating new viruses could end up in the wrong hands. It is reasonable to ask whether SARS-CoV-2 owes its remarkable infectivity to this broader research effort.

Unfortunately, US authorities have sought to suppress this very question. Early in the epidemic, a small group of virologists queried by the US National Institutes of Health told the NIH leadership that SARS-CoV-2 might have arisen from laboratory research, noting that the virus has unusual features that virologists in the US have been using in experiments for years – often with support from the NIH.

How do we know what NIH officials were told, and when? Because we now have publicly available information released by the NIH in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. We know that on February 1, 2020, the NIH held a conference call with a group of top virologists to discuss the possible origin of the virus. On that call, several of the researchers pointed out that laboratory manipulation of the virus was not only possible, but according to some, even likely. At that point, the NIH should have called for an urgent

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000739
MORENS_NIH_006090
REL0000479537

independent investigation. Instead, the NIH has sought to dismiss and discredit this line of inquiry.

HEADS IN THE SAND

Within days of the February 1 call, a group of virologists, including some who were on it, prepared the first draft of a paper on the "Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2." The final draft was published a month later, in March 2020. Despite the initial observations on February 1 that the virus showed signs of possible laboratory manipulation, the March paper concluded that there was overwhelming evidence that it had emerged from nature.

The authors claimed that the virus could not possibly have come from a laboratory because "the genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone." Yet the single footnote (number 20) backing up that key claim refers to a paper from 2014, which means that the authors' supposedly "irrefutable evidence" was at least five years out of date.

Owing to their refusal to support an independent investigation of the lab-leak hypothesis, the NIH and other US federal government agencies have been subjected to a wave of FOIA requests from a range of organizations, including US Right to Know and *The Intercept*. These FOIA disclosures, as well as internet searches and "whistleblower" leaks, have revealed some startling information.

Consider, for example, a March 2018 grant proposal submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) by EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) and researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and the University of North Carolina (UNC). On page 11, the applicants explain in detail how they intend to alter the genetic code of bat coronaviruses to insert precisely the feature that is the most unusual part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Although DARPA did not approve this grant, the work may have proceeded anyway. We just don't know. But, thanks to another FOIA request, we do know that this group carried out similar gain-of-function experiments on another coronavirus, the one that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

In yet other cases, FOIA disclosures have been heavily redacted, including a remarkable effort to obscure 290 pages of documents going back to February 2020, including the *Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research* drafted that April by

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000740
MORENS_NIH_006091
REL0000479537

the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Such extensive redactions deeply undermine public trust in science, and have only served to invite additional urgent questions from researchers and independent investigators.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE

Here are ten things that we do know.

First, the SARS-CoV-2 genome is distinguished by a particular 12-nucleotide sequence (the genetic code) that serves to increase its infectivity. The specific amino acid sequence directed by this insertion has been much discussed and is known as a furin cleavage site (FCS).

Second, the FCS has been a target of cutting-edge research since 2006, following the original SARS outbreak of 2003-04. Scientists have long understood that the FCS holds the key to these viruses' infectivity and pathophysiology.

Third, SARS-CoV-2 is the only virus in the family of SARS-like viruses (sarbecoviruses) known to have an FCS. Interestingly, the specific form of the FCS that is present in SARS-CoV-2 (eight amino acids encoded by 24 nucleotides) is shared with a human sodium channel that has been studied in US labs.

Fourth, the FCS was already so well known as a driver of transmissibility and virulence that a group of US scientists submitted a proposal to the US government in 2018 to study the effect of inserting an FCS into SARS-like viruses found in bats. Although the dangers of this kind of work have been highlighted for some time, these bat viruses were somehow considered to be in a lower-risk category. This exempted them from NIH gain-of-function guidelines, thereby enabling NIH-funded experiments to be carried out at the inadequate BSL-2 safety level.

Fifth, the NIH was a strong supporter of such gain-of-function research, much of which was performed using US-developed biotechnology and executed within an NIH-funded three-way partnership between the EHA, the WIV, and UNC.

Sixth, in 2018, a leading US scientist pursuing this research argued that laboratory manipulation was vital for drug and vaccine discovery, but that increased regulation could stymie progress. Many within the virology community

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000741
MORENS_NIH_006092
REL0000479537

continue to resist sensible calls for enhanced regulation of the most high-risk virus manipulation, including the establishment of a national regulatory body independent of the NIH.

Seventh, the virus was very likely circulating a lot earlier than the standard narrative that dates awareness of the outbreak to late December 2019. We still do not know when parts of the US government became aware of the outbreak, but some scientists were aware of the outbreak as of mid-December.

Eighth, the NIH knew as early as February 1, 2020, that the virus could have emerged as a consequence of NIH-funded laboratory research, but it did not disclose that fundamental fact to the public or to the US Congress.

Ninth, extensive sampling by Chinese authorities of animals in Wuhan wet markets and in the wild has found not a single wild animal harboring the SARS-CoV-2 virus. At the same time, there is no indication that the NIH has requested the laboratory records of US agencies, academic centers, and biotech companies involved in researching and manipulating SARS-like coronaviruses.

Tenth, the IC has not explained why at least some of the US intelligence agencies do in fact believe that a laboratory release was either the most likely or at least a possible origin of the virus.

TIME FOR TRANSPARENCY

Given the questions that remain unanswered, we are calling on the US government to conduct a bipartisan investigation. We may never understand the origin of SARS-CoV-2 without opening the books of the relevant federal agencies (including the NIH and the Department of Defense), the laboratories they support, academic institutions that store and archive viral sequence data, and biotechnology companies.

A key objective of the investigation would be to shed light on a basic question: Did US researchers undertake research or help their Chinese counterparts to undertake research to insert an FCS into a SARS-like virus, thereby playing a possible role in the creation of novel pathogens like the one that led to the current pandemic?

Investigations into COVID-19's origins should no longer be secretive ventures led by the IC. The process must be transparent, with all relevant information

being released publicly for use by independent scientific researchers. It seems clear to us that there has been a concerted effort to suppress information regarding the earliest events in the outbreak, and to hinder the search for additional evidence that is clearly available within the US. We suggest that a panel of independent researchers in relevant disciplines be created and granted access to all pertinent data in order to advise the US Congress and the public.

There is a good chance that we can learn more about the origins of this virus without waiting on China or any other country, simply by looking in the US. We believe such an inquiry is long overdue.

https://www.project- syndicate.org/onpoint/did- us-technology- help-create-covid-19-in-china-by-neil-l-harrison-and-jeffrey-d-sachs-2022-05





Copyright © 2022 Sonia Sachs, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this because you have expressed interest.

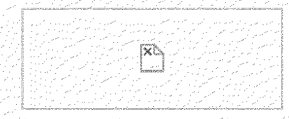
My mailing address is:
Sonia Sachs
61 Claremont Ave
New York, NY 10027
Add us to your address book

Did you receive this from a friend and want to sign up?
Sign up for future mailings here.

View the last 20 articles here.
Visit JeffSachs.org for an archive of articles, chapters, books and videos.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000744
MORENS_NIH_006095
REL0000479537

Date: Tue, 29 Jun 2021 8:11:48 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 29 Jun 2021 8:11:42 PM -0400
Subject: Re: quote of the day…. i can't resist
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Siatras Siatras b6 Peter Daszak b6 Gerald Keusch b6

Amongst the worst, tragically there are ma many

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

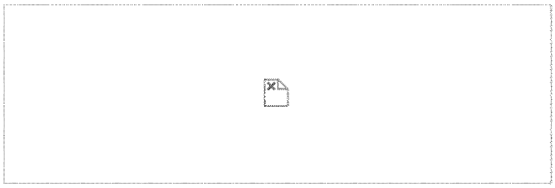
Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
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
b6

Phone: b6



Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 29, 2021, at 6:51 PM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Will do. And thanks from me for bitch-slapping Jordan. He's the worst. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 29, 2021, at 19:23, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] > wrote:
>
> Many thanks, let Tony know I'm defending him on Twitter today, that awful OH Rep Jim Jordan

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

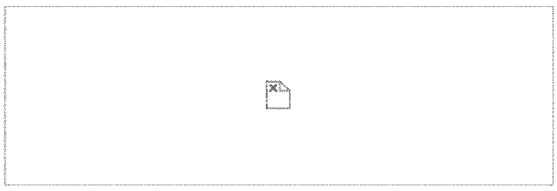
Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype [b6]
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
[b6]

Phone [b6]



Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 29, 2021, at 6:16 PM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

Just on TV, a quotation from a White Trump-supporting woman who is angry about woke-ism, BLM, and Black progressives: "If we had known [you people would become who you are today] we would have picked our own fucking cotton".

You gotta love the poetry of blind stupidity and evil. In this climate, we have to deal with a whole new field of demagoguery: Covid-originalism! One day someone will write a book about this. It will sit on a shelf next to Hannah Arendt and Theodore Adorno. And you may well be heroes! Congrats. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

Date:	Mon, 9 May 2022 10:22:18 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 9 May 2022 10:21:41 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Get well soon Peter! e-card link inside...
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
CC:	Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6 >;
Attachments:	Chicken Soup Controversy.docx

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 b6
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 7:42 PM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >
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
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: 7[b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 9, 2022, at 6:35 PM, David Morens <b6> 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

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 9, 2022, at 6:14 PM, Peter Daszak b6 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_NIH_019766
REL0000479540

Date: Tue, 2 Aug 2022 3:16:46 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 2 Aug 2022 3:16:37 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research
From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg

Very good response!

Rich

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 2, 2022, at 3:10 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6]> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi Rich, your note prompted me to contact Mary Woolley and Ellie Dehoney from R!A (see the string that follows starting with my note, their individual response, and my reaction to each of them at the bottom). I was actually surprised to hear from both of them so quickly. I hope my note raised their attention level, as their comment to be in touch with ASM suggests. Its why I followed up and suggested they build a coalition with the other big scientific societies as there is power and some degree of protection by banding together albeit no guarantee of results. Its just the need to get this out there for the scientific community to see and be willing to speak out. I don't see much of that happening.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Mary Woolley [b6]
Cc: Ellie Dehoney [b6]
Subject: Rand Paul hearing

Hi Mary,

Hope you are well and continue to fight the good battle for the integrity of science. Unless I have missed it, however, I haven't seen any response by R!A to the continued attacks on Tony Fauci by Rand Paul, and in particular his outrageous hearing set for tomorrow to discuss "gain-of-function" research with such experts as Richard Ebright, Stephen Quay, and Kevin Esfelt – none of whom are virologists, geneticists, students of pathobiology or microbial pathogenesis, biomedical laboratory trained, have expertise in containment research, are

evolutionary biologists, or biosafety experts.

The scientific community needs bold leadership from responsible organizations like R!A and its leadership, to mobilize reaction to such overt politicization and the attempt to disparage Tony and other thoughtful experts on whom we depend. Advocacy must be for more than funding because without preserving the highest principles of science and the scientists that practice and actually live them funding doesn't really matter.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and International Health
Boston University School of Medicine
Associate Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
620 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02118

From: Mary Woolley [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Ellie Dehoney [b6]
Subject: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Hi Gerry – very concerning, indeed. Ellie and I happened to be talking when your email arrived. It is shocking indeed that attacks on public servants seem to be escalating rather than in retreat. I read a JAMA abstract sometime recently about a study showing that the % of people who think it is justified and appropriate to harass (yes) and threaten (yes) elected and appointed officials has increased to about 25%. Incredible!

Per your specific questions, a couple of things to note:

We worked with others, very much including ASM, to assure that gain-of-function language was kept out of the CHIPS + Science authorizing legislation that passed both houses last week. We will continue to keep an eye on it during appropriations.

Ellie will be in touch with ASM, which we see as very much a leader in this, to see how we can help regarding tomorrow's hearing.

Our experience is that there are times to avoid giving attention to certain actors, as it can increase media and other coverage, which can play out badly, emboldening those actors.

This is an area where nuance matters and we don't always get it exactly right – although we aim for that!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009022
MORENS_NIH_019316
REL0000479541

Thank you for all you are doing.

My best,

Mary

FROM: Ellie Dehoney b6
SENT: Tuesday 8/2/2022 2:34 PM
TO: Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC: Mary Woolley b6
SUBJ: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Hi Jerry, thanks so much for sharing this info! We have been working in coalition with the American Society for Microbiology on the gain of function issue and were thrilled when the gain of function provision was dropped from the COMPETES plus SCIENCE Act. I'll get in touch with my colleagues at ASM now re the hearing. My guess is that they are intentionally not engaging, since Sen. Paul tries to rile up opponents to lengthen an otherwise short news cycle.

Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Research!America

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Ellie Dehoney b6 Mary Woolley
b6
Subject: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Thanks for the quick reply, Ellie. I understand the complex political implications of any action, considering inaction itself an action. Teaming with ASM is a good strategy. Even better if R!A could lead a coalition of the leading societies and organizations, including AAAS, IDSA, ASTM, and even with the National Academies of Science or perhaps just the National Academy of Medicine. There is power in such a coalition, but only to the degree there is a willingness to speak out, support the principles of scientific integrity, and defend those who are being attacked.

I personally appreciate your willingness to immediately follow up, and I hope your counterparts at ASM are equally appalled over this and the parade of non-expert witnesses being featured to an unsophisticated TV audience and, yes, the news cycle and cable TV.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Mary Woolley [b6]
Cc: Ellie Dehoney [b6]
Subject: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Thanks Mary, and as I noted to Ellie especially for your quick reply to my note, as I know that you are both busy and dealing with a multiplicity of issues. I encourage you to continue to push the issues and the concerns we clearly share in every way possible. The scientific method is a never ending search for knowledge, and I trust so will be the effort to defend scientific integrity and autonomy from the influence of politics and belief systems.

Warm regards, Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>
Subject: RE: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Hi:

Did anyone actually contact Research America about this?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
David Morens [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Roberts, Rich <
[b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm surprised Research America is not on this helping? Or Victor Dzau?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

Yes. This is set up to disparage Tony Fauci and further the impact of disinformation in the Congress.
We need to be getting out the people to contact their Senators and Congressmen and Women whether or not they are on any relevant committees.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] wrote:

Ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009026
MORENS_NIH_019320
REL0000479541

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 11:14 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Re. commenting on this – I think you should wait to see if it gets any publicity first, otherwise you might inadvertently amplify their impact..

Re. November – I worry that our lives will be made miserable by constant harassment from what could be Republican-led Congressional committees. If this HSGAC group is any indication, they expect us to just dump all of our emails for the last dozen years or more so that they can go through them and find sentences that support their narrative when quoted out of context. It's not just utterly disingenuous, it's also dangerous because it drives the public hate campaigns and efforts to attack us in many other ways.

We've managed to avoid a couple of serious efforts to defund us so far, and are only working with this committee to try and avoid even more pressure, but we know they're talking to many other groups to build their 'case'. On our last call, they asked us for not only any emails to govt agencies, but emails between staff members. I pointed out that it's against our org's policy to snoop on staff conversations, and they smugly told us we should get used to requests for documents because we'll "soon be doing a lot more of them".

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] David Morens < [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] ; Aleksei Chmura < [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Should I publicize this with my usual commentary?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009027
MORENS_NIH_019321
REL0000479541

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering,
Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 10:20 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009028
MORENS_NIH_019322
REL0000479541

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting- gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

- Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
- Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc.
- Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Oh ok

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009029
MORENS_NIH_019323
REL0000479541

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009030
MORENS_NIH_019324
REL0000479541

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 wrote:

Peter, I do not have a link. These pdfs came directly from the journal.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:20 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 >; Peter Daszak < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Do you have the link so i can put it out on social media? I had trouble finding it

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

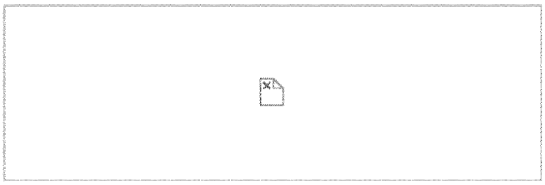
Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299



iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or

open attachments you know are safe.

Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm
David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 <mailto: b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens b6 <mailto: b6 >> wrote:
probably u have all seen these but just in case....d

b6

b6 <mailto: b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 <mailto: b6 >> wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
• b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
• b6 b6 b6
b6 <mailto b6 >

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009033
MORENS_NIH_019327
REL0000479541

PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 7 May 2024 2:16:26 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 7 May 2024 2:15:32 PM -0400
Subject: Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] | Roberts, Rich [b6] | Aleksei Chmura [b6] | Gerald Keusch [b6] | Keith Martin [b6] | David Morens [b6]

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 Agrigulture 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
Rice 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: [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 10:25 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 >; Keith Martin b6 David Morens
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

MORENS_NIH_044948
REL0000479543

Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 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

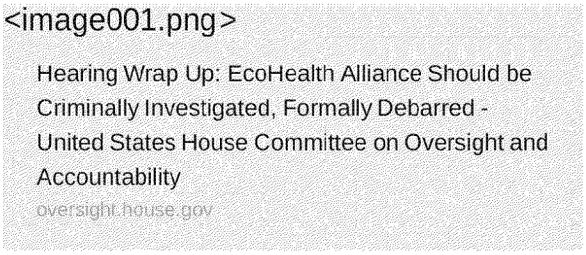
From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Aleksei Chmura b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <

b6 Gerald Keusch b6 ; Keith Martin b6 David Morens <

Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

" **The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."**



I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich < b6 >; Gerald Keusch < b6 Keith Martin b6 >; David Morens b6
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6
iPhone

MORENS_NIH_044952
REL0000479543

Date: Wed, 3 Apr 2024 3:17:38 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 3 Apr 2024 3:17:34 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

From: "Roberts, Rich" b6

To: David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 peter hotez b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;

Unbelievable! We are being surrounded by morons.

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

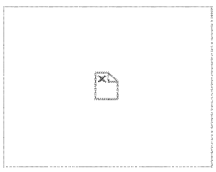
Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 peter hotez b6
Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Subject: Fwd: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** b6
Date: Wed, Apr 3, 2024, 14:25
Subject: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
To:



Press Release **Published:** Apr 2, 2024

Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

WASHINGTON — Today, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) invited the respective Editors-in-Chief of *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* to testify before the Select Subcommittee on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The hearing seeks to examine any potential inappropriate influence exerted by the federal government over research publications related to COVID-19 and ensure that the federal government is not granted undue access to the scientific review process during a future health crisis.

Science, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* serve as critical information hubs for top scientific research across the world and individually publish articles that are cited millions of times each year. After the publication of the highly controversial, "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2" ("Proximal Origin") paper — which wrongly downplayed and vilified the lab leak hypothesis during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic — concerns arose regarding the suppression of scientific discourse by federal health officials in the United States. The Select Subcommittee has obtained evidence that indicates *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* were in communication with federal government officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins.

"*Millions of people worldwide relied on Science, Nature, and The Lancet to provide scientifically accurate and impartial research during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, documents show that the federal government may have censored and manipulated the sacred scientific review processes at these journals to progress their preferred narrative about the origins of COVID-19. Should these world-renowned scientific journals have done more to protect scientific discourse and ensure the peer review process was completed without outside influence? The Select Subcommittee expects the invited Editors-in-Chief to attend this hearing and address concerns that their research was inappropriately influenced by a political agenda*," **said Chairman Wenstrup.**

Read the letters to Science, Nature, and The Lancet below:

- Editor-in-Chief of *Science*, Dr. Holden Thorp
- Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, Dr. Magdelena Skipper
- Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet*, Dr. Richard Horton

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007120
MORENS_NIH_016250
REL0000479547

Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:40:31 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:39:19 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6 Rich Roberts b6
Attachments: image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

I was just talking about that statement with a couple of our Board members. My view is this is Biden's way of punting it down the road for 90 days, hoping the hype dies down, and hoping something shifts the narrative. He looks like he's doing something, while everyone knows that the US intelligence agencies are unlikely to get any more clarity in the meantime.

The real clarity will come when people are allowed back into China to actually do some research. The more lab leak discussion, the less chance of that happening. That's a direct

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

David

David M. Morens, M.D.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014865
MORENS_NIH_030518
REL0000479550

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
- b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:09 PM
Subject: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

1 hour ago - World

Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins



Zachary Basu

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014866
MORENS_NIH_030519
REL0000479550

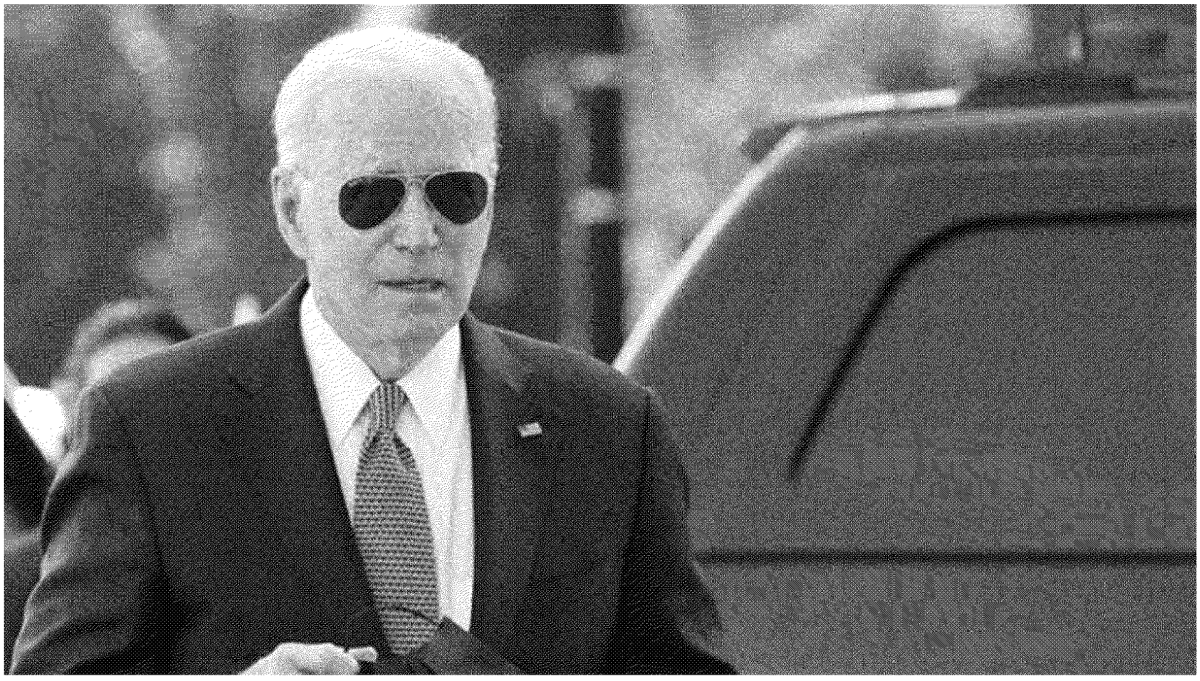


Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Biden announced Wednesday he has asked the U.S. intelligence community to "redouble their efforts" to investigate the origins of the coronavirus and provide a report within 90 days that "could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion."

Why it matters: The debate over the origins of COVID-19 has been reinvigorated in recent days by previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, that three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill enough to be hospitalized in November 2019.

The state of play: Biden said in a statement that the U.S. intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios" for the origins of the virus — one, that it emerged from human contact with an infected and animal, and two, that it was the result of an accidental laboratory leak.

- A joint team from the World Health Organization and China issued an inconclusive report in March that described the so-called lab-leak theory as "extremely unlikely."
- But the report has been criticized by the U.S. and WHO leadership for its methodology and lack of transparency from the Chinese government, and top U.S. officials have called for a new investigation.

What they're saying: Biden said the U.S. intelligence community's current position is that "while two elements in the IC leans toward the former scenario and one leans more toward the latter – each with low or moderate confidence – the majority of elements do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other."

- "I have now asked the Intelligence Community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Biden said in a statement.
- "As part of that report, I have asked for areas of further inquiry that may be required, including specific questions for China. I have also asked that this effort include work by our National Labs and other agencies of our government to augment the Intelligence Community's efforts. And I have asked the Intelligence Community to keep Congress fully apprised of its work."

Our thought bubble: Whether COVID-19 ultimately originated in an animal or in a lab, the bulk of the evidence is in China, which limits what the U.S. can find out. But Biden's statement underscores the fact that this debate will not end any time soon, and that the U.S. could ramp up pressure on China to cooperate.

Go deeper: The COVID lab-leak theory goes mainstream

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 1:12:22 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 1:08:17 AM -0400
Subject: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: Sánchez et al. Risk of bat CoV emergence SE Asia Uncorrected Proofs polished.pdf; [b6] (1) FINAL.docx; Daszak Intl. Collaboration protects against pandemics. EcoHealth 2022.pdf

---

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6]; 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; Peter Daszak <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6 David Morens <b6>; David Morens <b6 Gerald T Keusch b6
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: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009366
MORENS_NIH_019836
REL0000479553

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Roberts, Rich <
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: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > --
> > Emily Kopp
> > Reporter
> > U.S. Right to Know

Signal: b6 b6



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009369
MORENS_NIH_019839
REL0000479553

Date: Wed, 29 Sep 2021 12:15:02 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 29 Sep 2021 12:15:01 AM -0400
Subject: RE: [EXT]US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ b6
To: b6 b6 b6
CC: b6 b6 b6 b6

Dagger in the heart?! Bob, you never gave me such colourful quotes! I interviewed Vincent Racaniello yesterday. I thought he was on the fence, but he's definitely in the natural origins camp.

---- Original Message ----

From: Peter Daszak b6

To: b6

CC: JASON GALE, (b) (6)

At: 09/29/21 13:46:06 UTC+10:00

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the "debate" pretty clearly and cites a couple of you:

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010997
MORENS_NIH_021740
REL0000479565

support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.

CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely," Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego's medical school, told me. "To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010998
MORENS_NIH_021741
REL0000479565

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 of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, "See, we knew it all along."

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes a daily blog appearing on latimes.com. His seventh book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Worobey, Michael - (worobey) b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Garry, Robert F b6
Cc: Edward Holmes b6; Rasmussen, Angie b6; Jason Gale b6; Stephen Goldstein b6
Subject: Re: [EXT]US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng

Good point — though I think that she likely was talking about the idea that there were multiple cross-species origins of SARS-CoV-2 at different markets, rather than just the undeniable fact that early cases were linked epidemiologically to multiple markets. At any rate, multiple cross-species origins is a hypothesis not a myth. She definitely is off to a bad, unscientific start with such pejorative bluster. Geez.

Michael Worobey

Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

On Sep 28, 2021, at 5:56 PM, Garry, Robert F [b6] wrote:

External Email

<image.png>

Chan is actually off to a really bad start "debunking" the multi-market "myth."

Trhe WHO team did a great job showing that most early cases were linked to multiple markets (that we now know sold SC2 susceptible animals).

Multi-market is not a myth or a hypothesis. It's a fact that any theory on SARS-CoV-2 origins MUST account for.

From: Worobey, Michael - (worobey) [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 12:26 AM
To: Edward Holmes [b6]
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie [b6] Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; [b6]; Garry, Robert F < [b6] Stephen Goldstein [b6]
Subject: Re: [EXT]US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

And one very useful tidbit from The Who report was that none of >7000 samples from ILI cases from the fall of 2019 had SARS-CoV-2.

Damn autocorrect always changes is the the band when I write “the WHO”.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011002
MORENS_NIH_021745
REL0000479565

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

On Sep 14, 2021, at 5:23 PM, Edward Holmes [b6] wrote:

External Email

Plus WHO talked to the medical staff at the military games and checked hospital admission data.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS

The University of Sydney

On 15 Sep 2021, at 10:06 am, Rasmussen, Angie [b6] wrote:

Agreed. Quite honestly this story doesn't even make any sense. If the CCP was really so good at keeping crucial information away from Westerners, then why are all these people suddenly revealing that it was old news by late December to known dissidents and an ever-growing consortium of well-connected US scientists, politicians, and intelligence officials? If David Asher, for example, was really privy to all this conclusive proof in late 2019, then why in spring 2021 was he still sitting on panels describing the zoonotic origin hypothesis as a pangolin mating with a bat? None of this makes any sense except in the context that people are trying to inflate their own importance and/or sell their ridiculous, defamatory, agenda-driven works of fiction.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: [b6] [b6]
She/her
www.vido.org

<1f173b8a-2d0d-442c-8c8b-7b6e151a325a.png>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011003
MORENS_NIH_021746
REL0000479565

On Sep 14, 2021, at 6:00 PM, Worobey, Michael - (worobey) b6 wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Yes, total BS.

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

> On Sep 14, 2021, at 4:56 PM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:
>
> External Email
>
> JFYI
>
> Revealed: US failed to act on Covid-19 intelligence, says Wei Jingsheng
>
> EXCLUSIVE
>
> SHARRI MARKSON
>
> INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR
>
> 2 MINUTES AGO SEPTEMBER 15, 2021188 COMMENTS
>
> China's most famous defector to America warned US intelligence agencies a coronavirus was spreading in Wuhan in November 2019

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011004
MORENS_NIH_021747
REL0000479565

– six weeks before China admitted there was an outbreak.

Wei Jingsheng, the father of China's democracy movement, reveals in the new book What Really Happened in Wuhan that he first heard of a new, mysterious virus at the time of the World Military Games in Wuhan in October 2019.

Highly alarmed, the former Chinese Communist Party insider, whose defection in 1997 made global news, alerted intelligence agencies, a US politician with links to the President and Chinese human rights activist Dimon Liu.

Asked if he had any sense the intelligence agencies were taking seriously his intelligence about a new virus in Wuhan, Mr Wei, 70, said: "I felt they were not as heavily concerned as I was so I tried my best to provide more detailed information," he said. "They may not believe there is (a) government of a country that would do something like that (cover up a virus). So I kept repeating myself in an effort to try to persuade them."

Mr Wei said he was "very worried because ... whichever way the Communist regime released this virus, I felt that the West is not prepared".

It was not until December 31 that China involuntarily alerted the World Health Organisation there was an outbreak in Wuhan. Beijing denied Covid-19 was contagious until January 20, 2020, when it admitted there was evidence of human-to-human transmission.

Mr Wei, who spent 18 years in Chinese prisons for objecting to the Communist regime, is highly respected on both sides of politics and has forged relationships with former secretary of state Mike Pompeo and Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

In a Sky News documentary, based on the book, to air on Monday night, Mr Wei said he found out about the virus from high-level

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011005
MORENS_NIH_021748
REL0000479565

contacts in Beijing.

“I talked to Dimon and some other American politicians in the House of the danger of this situation,” he said. “There were officials from the White House at that time as well. In November 2019.”

Mr Wei would not reveal which politician he told. “I’m not sure if this politician wants me to talk about him right here,” he said. “But I want to say he is a high enough politician, high enough to be able to reach to the President of the United States.”

David Asher, the State Department official who spearheaded a taskforce into the origins of Covid-19, said the opportunity presented by Mr Wei’s warning was like “stopping 9/11 before it happened”.

Mr Asher said the US government had other crucial pieces of early-warning evidence in late 2019 but it failed to connect the dots. He said the US government first had intelligence about Wuhan Institute of Virology workers falling sick with Covid-like symptoms in late 2019 – a year before he discovered it during his investigation into the origins of the virus for the State Department. By then, 1.7 million people worldwide had died from Covid-19.

In the Sky News documentary, Mr Asher said he was shocked when he found out “we actually could have had foreknowledge” of the coronavirus. “We could have known in November of 2019, that there was a disaster occurring inside Wuhan – inside their most important biological facilities related to coronavirus research,” he said.

“It was something absolutely tragic, traumatic and dramatic that was occurring and we could have reacted to it. The whole world could have been different. It would have been like stopping 9/11 before it happened.”

Chinese authorities were acting to suppress news of the Wuhan outbreak, purging the internet of social media posts and news stories and “disappearing” dissidents and whistleblowers who

attempted to sound a warning. Social media reports about a new coronavirus did not emerge until late December 2019 and it was not until the end of January 2020 that the US, Australia and New Zealand closed borders to travellers from China.

Ms Liu reveals in What Really Happened in Wuhan that Mr Wei told her about the virus on November 22, 2019 at a dinner where her husband, former CIA agent Robert Suettinger was also present. “I couldn’t quite believe what he was saying,” Ms Liu said. “At that time, I had thought that the coronavirus could not be worse than SARS. And SARS, as we knew from experience, was not that contagious and it could be contained. I thought at the time that was the case. Okay, there was an outbreak, but the authorities and the advance of medical sciences would be able to contain the spread of it.”

In the book, Ms Liu details the race to get information about the new virus to the White House and her uncertainty about it. After Mr Wei’s visit, she wrote a memo of what he had divulged to her and Mr Suettinger. She intended to pass it on to Donald Trump’s deputy national security adviser, Matt Pottinger.

“But I didn’t send it to him because so many things were so incredulous,” she said. “I wrote it, but I didn’t send it because I decided it was better that Wei talks directly to Matt Pottinger.”

Mr Wei says in the book: “In the past several decades, the CCP’s capacity to seal information is hard to be understood by you Westerners.”

Order your copy of What Really Happened in Wuhan by Sharri Markson here

<1f173b8a-2d0d-442c-8c8b-7b6e151a325a.png>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 20 Feb 2022 4:00:47 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 20 Feb 2022 4:00:17 PM -0500
Subject: FW - emails from Erik Stemmy to say he's unable to talk with me anymore about our suspended R01
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: David Morens b6 Gerald Keusch b6

I'm forwarding the email chain below so you're aware. I hinted at it in the letter response to Michael Lauer re. the U01 hassles.

I believe it's highly unusual for a program officer on an active grant to be told not to communicate with the PI, even if the grant is suspended. Erik Stemmy is basically the only person we would communicate with on any issues related to this grant for the full 5.5 years it was active.

Note that even though the R01 is "suspended", we still have to file reports on what we've done, and check we're in compliance with all Federal regulations, even though the funding is not allowed. The last action on this R01 was EHA responding to all demands and asking NIH to reinstate the grant, to which NIH O/D replied that they'll be reviewing that, and in the meantime they sent us a bunch more demands (lab notebooks, IACUCs etc.).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Stemmy, b6 [E] b6
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Communications.

Hi Peter,
It's definitely a frustrating situation on my end as well, but not one I have a great deal of control over. Emily's email address is:
b6

Erik

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 1:56 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015608
MORENS_NIH_033277
REL0000479566

To: Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Communications.

Thanks Erik – that's a shame, considering you're my Program Officer for that grant, which is still active, even though it's suspended.

In any case, I was just hoping to talk to you and make sure you knew what we were going to say in our response to Michael Lauer – I didn't want you to be blindsided by anything.

I'll cc Emily Linde on all emails going forwards, but I will continue copying you as well until I'm told by NIH that I have a different Program Officer. Can you send me her email please?

Look forward to normal communication beginning again at some point.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Zoom Call tomorrow (Tuesday, 26th October)?

Hi Peter,
I'm sorry I haven't been able to connect with you. Unfortunately I've been told to direct you to NIAID's grants management officer Emily Linde for anything related to R01AI110964. I'm sorry I can't be more helpful.

Erik

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] <e[b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Zoom Call tomorrow (Tuesday, 26th October)?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015609
MORENS_NIH_033278
REL0000479566

I look forward to talking with you!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Zoom Call tomorrow (Tuesday, 26th October)?

Hi Peter,
Thank you, I appreciate the update! But I'm afraid that I'm completely swamped and don't think I can make anything work today. I'll try to get back to you with some potential options soon.

Erik

Erik J. Stemmy, Ph.D.
Program Officer
Respiratory Diseases Branch
Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases NIAID/NIH/HHS
Email: b6
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Getting ready to publish? Share the good news with your program officer asap! NIAID may be able to help publicize your article. And, remember to list your NIAID grant or contract number in the publication.
****

NOTE: This material is intended for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain privileged, confidential information that is protected from disclosure under applicable laws. If you are not the addressee, or a person authorized to deliver the document to the addressee, please note that you are strictly prohibited from reviewing, copying, disclosing, disseminating or distributing this material or any other action based on the contents of this material. If you have received this

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015610
MORENS_NIH_033279
REL0000479566

communication in error, please permanently delete this from your system immediately. Thank you.

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:57 PM
To: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: Zoom Call tomorrow (Tuesday, 26th October)?

Hi Erik – I'd like to give you an update on how we're going to respond to the latest letter from Michael Lauer re. requesting data from our R01, and to the allegations that we didn't comply with reporting requirements. I don't want you to be blindsided, knowing that the communications are coming from the Office of the Director, and not through program staff.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:32 PM
To:
Cc: [b6]
Subject: Zoom Call tomorrow (Tuesday, 26th October)?

Dear Erik,

Could Peter and I have a quick zoom call with you sometime tomorrow?

Current best times for Peter and me are 11:00-12:00 or after 3pm.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015611
MORENS_NIH_033280
REL0000479566

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura, PhD
Chief of Staff

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018, USA

b6 (direct)
(mobile)
n (Skype)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

Visit our blog: www.ecohealthalliance.org/blog

EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science we develop solutions that promote conservation and prevent pandemics.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 1:35:24 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 1:35:21 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 b6 >;
Attachments: Year 4 Report (p298).png

I was recalling the data differently than they appear in the figure Simone is referring to. Before I write back to her give me your interpretation. The viral load at the point of death is not significantly different(given the wide confidence limits) from the chimeric strains although the mean is and it looks "different". The body weight data indicate the three chimeric viruses are having an impact on host physiology, which one could conclude was the result of greater replication.

I want to get it right so she can also get it right. The quicker you can follow up the better as she is on an approaching deadline.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy b6 >
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

Thanks - this is important, so just to be clear, we are taking about Figure 35b on the left (in the attached screenshot)? I do not see the 3 days mark on there, are you seeing what you say off the chart? Sorry to be dense, I just want to make sure I have this right and I'm no expert on how to read this. Thank you.

Best,

Simone

On Mon, 13 Sept 2021 at 21:19, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > wrote:

> Hi Simone, happy quarantining.
>
> But do not fall into conspiracy traps as you will note on the growth curve it's only the early time point that is higher than the control. By 3 days they are the same. So what does that mean in terms of enhanced risk to humans? Note too it's not a human pathogen backbone. So what does that mean for virulence in humans? Likely not much but when you point it out you can make it seem sinister.
>
> The experiments were not GOF by the HHS definitions so they were legal and legitimate. The responsibility of EHA was to report them, which they did. They have acted responsibly and reliably all through this. Your "journalism" colleagues have not.
>
> All of this has to be made clear. I hope you can do that.
>
> Jerry
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Sep 13, 2021, at 6:24 AM, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com> wrote:

Hi Jerry,

Great - thanks so much for these detailed replies. This is really helpful and I'm grateful to be able to include this in the piece. Since I emailed you last I have arrived back in HK and successfully entered my quarantine hotel, and I've also had time to more thoroughly look through the grant reports and proposals for the EcoHealth/WIV NIH-funded work, which were made public by The Intercept following their FOIA lawsuit. Since in my question about risk/reward you note that this needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, I just want to note that in my article I will flag a particular segment in the EcoHealth grant year 4 report, where the humanised mice are infected with chimeric viruses and some of the chimeric viruses appear able to grow faster than the original backbone virus (relevant parts attached to this email). I don't think this should change anything from your comments, but I did want to make sure I filled in all the context, in case.

Hope you had a nice drive back from the Berkshires and that you will be able to get back there again soon - lovely time of year! Thanks again for your time and insight.

Best,

Simone

On Sat, 11 Sept 2021 at 00:54, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

> Hi Simone, this is a terribly muddied area on top of major league nuance. On top of this, I see the original Cambridge group as contributing to the confusion by lumping everything together, in spite of the nuance, as either GOF or risky research. They have a fundamental believe, a sort of fundamentalist view of science and like the right to life movement they won't stop until they ban the work they don't approve. All that is personal perspective. Now to your questions.
>
> • Why would Fauci not feel that this work described in the paper/grant [cited in notes below] is not gain of function? Is this related to the definition pre-2014 vs. from 2017on or given the kind of virus used? Under what circumstances would this be or not be considered GofF?
>
> It is essential to first parse what is meant by gain of function as applied to molecular pathogenesis research, or the genetics of virulence and infection – and let's just focus on the viruses for now – because without that every basic virology study can be classified as GOF research as such experiments may alter the phenotype of a microorganism. Do we really want to spend time decimating the science of virology, or carving out what experiments can be done, when we really need to continue to understand how viruses work, are transmitted, infect different species, cause disease, and be controlled by new products including therapeutics, vaccines, and diagnostics? Some staunch opponents even talk about culture of a bat virus in a mouse tissue culture system as GOF because it will select for virus variants better able to replicate and infect mouse cells, and maybe mice as well. For decades, however, serial passage in tissue culture were how viruses were attenuated to create vaccines, before the era of molecular virology and genetic engineering.
>
> All of this forgets about the fact that nearly all mutations either reduce the fitness of

viruses, or are neutral, and it is the rare one that has any effect to enhance infection, replication, transmission, or disease.

Viruses are the most prevalent organisms on the planet by many fold, and there is a daily circulation from earth and creatures into the atmosphere and back to earth and creatures, and more than 700 million deposited per square meter every day (https://www.airspacemag.com/daily- planet/there-are-more-viruses-earth-there-are-stars-universe-180974433/). An interesting analogy is that there are more viruses on earth than stars in the sky. Humans are exposed every day, evolution (especially for RNA viruses) proceeds at warp speed compared to humans whose generation time is now 30 years or so, so why don't new pandemics happen every year? Month? Week? Day? Hour? Or, in fact how is that we are still alive? Because most of the changes are negative or neutral. The labs are not the problem, per se, nature is the greatest bioterrorist there is because nobody can control what is happening our of sight and out of mind.

Now to Fauci, he is talking about the HHS definition of GOF of concern, when viruses infecting humans are manipulated to enhance infection, human to human transmission, airborne transmission, or virulence. This is what emerged from the reviews during the pause on certain experiments on certain viruses from 2014-2017. Experiments on bat viruses to create chimeras to study molecular mechanisms of infection in vitro or in animal models are not included in that definition. I don't have a citation source, but my understanding from talking to friends and colleagues who are in a position to know something about it is that since the review mechanism was put into place HHS has reviewed 3 proposals with possible GOFOC research proposed, 2 were cleared, and 1 was not allowed. That's with every institution submitting grants having an IRB required to review such studies for research of potential concern, NIH/CDC/DOD staff review, program officer review, and reviewer scrutiny during the funding process. I have full faith in the system. Researchers are being very careful when proposing research to the USG for funding.

And, this process, review, potential restriction is something HHS does for the USG – review in the EU occurs but, while I have no detailed knowledge of the process my understanding is it is much less strict, organized or compulsive. Private funders and private research institutes can do what they want, and that would pertain around the world, and especially citizen science (pure or pernicious in intent) in the proverbial garage. My bottom line is that we need to get real, we can't throw out the baby (knowledge of importance through research) with the bathwater (what might be dangerous and not able to be controlled by proper facilities, protocols, and trained investigators).

- How do you view such research, as described in the grant, and its relative benefits and risks?

I haven't looked specifically at the work described in the grant. In a generic sense, research to understand how coronaviruses bind to and invade cells, replicate, distribute in different tissues, and move on to infect other individuals (this is called the life cycle of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023215
MORENS_NIH_044354
REL0000479574

virus, virtuous from the virus' point of view) have allowed us to develop the mRNA vaccines and is the fundamental mechanism targeted by the other vaccines in use today. These are not easy to grow in the lab, but you really have to be able to do that if you are going to identify potential therapeutic agents. I see no evidence of risky research or lab leaks being presented, only suspicion, speculation, misinformation or deliberate disinformation. All of the good science in peer reviewed journals of respect (there is other "science" of such poor quality, without authentic peer review, and with a purpose to drive a message rather than present information of importance for scrutiny, review, replication or repudiation by other scientists, in other words the scientific method) is providing more and more evidence of the evolution of the bat precursor to SARS-CoV-2 in nature, that is a more typical spillover from bat to mammal(s) ultimately to humans, that markers some have called indicators of laboratory creation are common in nature (like the furin cleavage site), and that a brisk trade in live mammals able to carry coronaviruses was happening for years in China, including in Wuhan, some from farm grown stocks (commercial, poorly controlled, unsanitary, and dangerous ventures), and other natural sources were moving around freely without surveillance.

To speak of benefits and risks requires focus on specific experiments. Each one, each type, will have different potential benefit and risk, and the latter will be closely tied to how those experiments are carried out and by whom. The one generic comment I can make is that we can never have enough information about how viruses work and infect their hosts, and that you can never know in advance when a finding will have revolutionary impact on our ability to prevent an outbreak by environmental means, prevent transmission by use of a vaccine, or prevent or treat illness, complications or death by treating an infection that was not prevented.

- I'm also curious if you have a view on how the definitions or stringency around evaluating risks of gain of function research has evolved in recent years pre and post the 2014 moratorium. I've seen some critiques noting that controls have become more lax in recent years, but would you agree with that?

I think I have addressed those issues. I have no reason to believe the controls have become more lax, especially from my vantage point at a BSL-4 laboratory and the stringency of review by our IRB, plus the overarching review of every proposal by the Boston Public Health Commission (this is peculiar to Boston as I think no other city has a local government oversight mechanism on the grants and research conducted within the city limits).

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 10:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023216
MORENS_NIH_044355
REL0000479574

That sounds great, thanks so much for that, especially amid everything else on the burners. Enjoy the weekend!

Simone

On Thu, 9 Sep 2021 at 22:02, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

> Hi Simone,
>
> I am not going to be available over the weekend, and as it turns out we are driving back from the Berkshires first thing on Monday morning so the 8 am time doesn't work either. I will go back over your email and the three questions you have, and we can continue to exchange by email as necessary. I know you have deadlines, so I will try to be attentive. There are some other pressing things on my plate now that are taking up my time, so apologies for the constraints.
> Jerry

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M: [b6]
E: [b6]

This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

<Year 3 Report (p251).png>
<Specific Aim 3 (p272).png>
<Year 4 Report (p298).png>

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M
E: b6

This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023217
MORENS_NIH_044356
REL0000479574

Date:	Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:14:44 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:13:03 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins
From:	Peter Daszak <b6>
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
CC:	Robert Kessler <b6>;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

Saw that piece. This apparently is a good investigative journalist and I spoke with her off the record to explain why another piece on the lab leak is not likely to be on the right side of history down the line.

She assured me it would be balanced and that she's going to look objectively at all possibilities. I smelled a rat and refused repeated attempts to get me on the record responding to what were (very obviously) Richard Ebright's obnoxious comments.

In the end, she wrote another biased piece that hits all the popular conspiracy mantras, and passively-aggressively trashes our organization by calling it a "Cut-out" – something Richard Ebright's been saying for a while.

I doubt my comments would have helped, of course, and me saying that we're a 45 yr old non-profit, that our work is published regularly in Science & Nature, and that we have worked in some of these countries, under some of the toughest conditions, for 20 or more years, would have just sounded like "well of course…they would say that wouldn't they!".

It's like the very worst of British journalism – the inneundos and unsaid hints, wrapped up in fine writing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: <b6>
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: FW: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014825
MORENS_NIH_030478
REL0000479580

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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:33 AM
Subject: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

VIRAL INFLECTION

The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

Throughout 2020, the notion that the novel coronavirus leaked from a lab was off-limits. Those who dared to push for transparency say toxic politics and hidden agendas kept us in the dark.

By Katherine Eban
June 3, 2021

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014826
MORENS_NIH_030479
REL0000479580

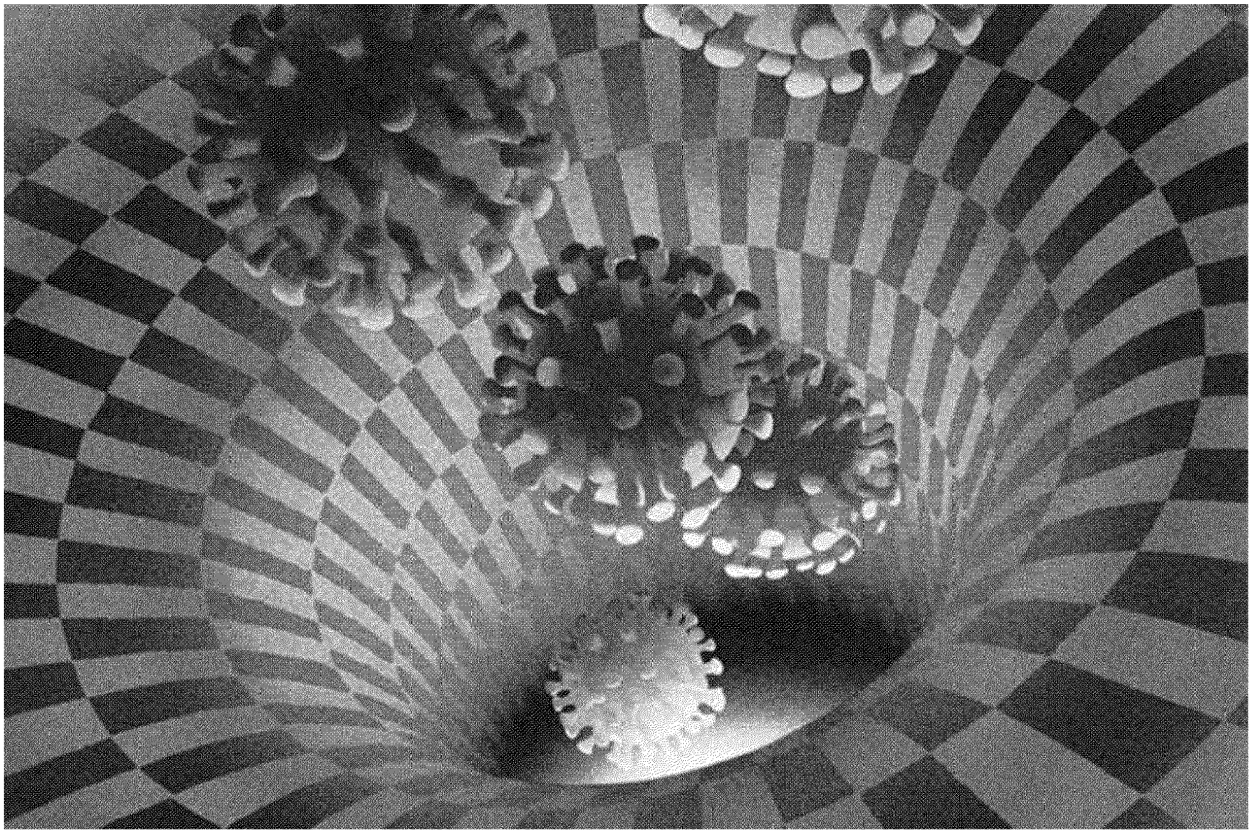


Illustration by Max Löffler.

I. A Group Called DRASTIC

Gilles Demaneuf is a data scientist with the Bank of New Zealand in Auckland. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome ten years ago, and believes it gives him a professional advantage. "I'm very good at finding patterns in data, when other people see nothing," he says.

Early last spring, as cities worldwide were shutting down to halt the spread of COVID-19, Demaneuf, 52, began reading up on the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease. The prevailing theory was that it had jumped from bats to some other species before making the leap to humans at a market in China, where some of the earliest cases appeared in late 2019. The Huanan wholesale market, in the city of Wuhan, is a complex of markets selling seafood, meat, fruit, and vegetables. A handful of vendors sold live wild animals—a possible source of the virus.

That wasn't the only theory, though. Wuhan is also home to China's foremost coronavirus research laboratory, housing one of the world's largest collections of bat samples and bat-virus strains. The Wuhan Institute of Virology's lead coronavirus researcher, Shi Zhengli, was among the first to identify horseshoe bats as the natural reservoirs for SARS-CoV, the virus that sparked an outbreak in 2002, killing 774 people and sickening more than 8,000 globally. After SARS, bats became a major subject of study for virologists around the world, and Shi became known in China as "Bat Woman" for her fearless exploration of their caves to collect samples. More recently, Shi and her colleagues at the WIV have performed high-profile experiments that made pathogens more infectious. Such research, known as "gain-of-function," has generated heated controversy among virologists.

To some people, it seemed natural to ask whether the virus causing the global pandemic had somehow leaked from one of the WIV's labs—a possibility Shi has strenuously denied.

On February 19, 2020, *The Lancet*, among the most respected and influential medical journals in the world, published a statement that roundly rejected the lab-leak hypothesis, effectively casting it as a xenophobic cousin to climate change denialism and anti-vaxxism. Signed by 27 scientists, the statement expressed "solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China" and asserted: "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."

The *Lancet* statement effectively ended the debate over COVID-19's origins before it began. To Gilles Demaneuf, following along from the sidelines, it was as if it had been "nailed to the church doors," establishing the natural origin theory as orthodoxy. "Everyone had to follow it. Everyone was intimidated. That set the tone."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014827
MORENS_NIH_030480
REL0000479580

The statement struck Demaneuf as "totally nonscientific." To him, it seemed to contain no evidence or information. And so he decided to begin his own inquiry in a "proper" way, with no idea of what he would find.



Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's lead coronavirus researcher, is frequently pictured in a full-body positive-pressure suit, though not all the labs there require one.By JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/Getty Images.

Demaneuf began searching for patterns in the available data, and it wasn't long before he spotted one. China's laboratories were said to be airtight, with safety practices equivalent to those in the U.S. and other developed countries. But Demaneuf soon discovered that there had been four incidents of SARS-related lab breaches since 2004, two occuring at a top laboratory in Beijing. Due to overcrowding there, a live SARS virus that had been improperly deactivated, had been moved to a refrigerator in a corridor. A graduate student then examined it in the electron microscope room and sparked an outbreak.

Demaneuf published his findings in a Medium post, titled "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: a review of SARS Lab Escapes." By then, he had begun working with another armchair investigator, Rodolphe de Maistre. A laboratory project director based in Paris who had previously studied and worked in China, de Maistre was busy debunking the notion that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was a "laboratory" at all. In fact, the WIV housed numerous laboratories that worked on coronaviruses. Only one of them has the highest biosafety protocol: BSL-4, in which researchers must wear full-body pressurized suits with independent oxygen. Others are designated BSL-3 and even BSL-2, roughly as secure as an American dentist's office.

Having connected online, Demaneuf and de Maistre began assembling a comprehensive list of research laboratories in China. As they posted their findings on Twitter, they were soon joined by others around the world. Some were cutting-edge scientists at prestigious research institutes. Others were unemployed science enthusiasts. Together, they formed a group called DRASTIC, short for Decentralized Radical Autonomous Search Team Investigating COVID-19. Their stated objective was to solve the riddle of COVID-19's origin.

State Department investigators say they were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box."

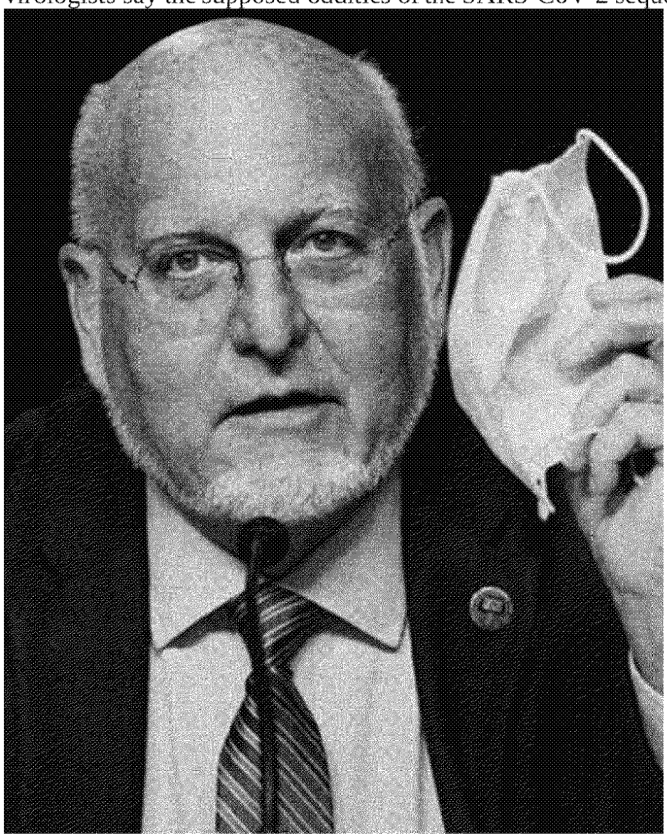
At times, it seemed the only other people entertaining the lab-leak theory were crackpots or political hacks hoping to wield COVID-19 as a cudgel against China. President Donald Trump's former political adviser Steve Bannon, for instance, joined forces with an exiled Chinese billionaire named Guo Wengui to fuel claims that China had developed the disease as a bioweapon and purposefully unleashed it on the world. As proof, they paraded a Hong Kong scientist around right-wing media outlets until her manifest lack of expertise doomed the charade.

With disreputable wing nuts on one side of them and scornful experts on the other, the DRASTIC researchers often felt as if they were on their own in the wilderness, working on the world's most urgent mystery. They weren't alone. But investigators inside the U.S. government asking similar questions were operating in an environment that was as politicized and hostile to open inquiry as any Twitter echo chamber. When Trump himself floated the lab-leak hypothesis last April, his divisiveness and lack of credibility made things more, not less, challenging for those seeking the truth.

"The DRASTIC people are doing better research than the U.S. government," says David Asher, a former senior investigator under contract to the State Department.
The question is: Why?

II. "A Can of Worms"

Since December 1, 2019, the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 has infected more than 170 million people around the world and killed more than 3.5 million. To this day, we don't know how or why this novel coronavirus suddenly appeared in the human population. Answering that question is more than an academic pursuit: Without knowing where it came from, we can't be sure we're taking the right steps to prevent a recurrence.
And yet, in the wake of the *Lancet* statement and under the cloud of Donald Trump's toxic racism, which contributed to an alarming wave of anti-Asian violence in the U.S., one possible answer to this all-important question remained largely off-limits until the spring of 2021.
Behind closed doors, however, national security and public health experts and officials across a range of departments in the executive branch were locked in high-stakes battles over what could and couldn't be investigated and made public.
A months long *Vanity Fair* investigation, interviews with more than 40 people, and a review of hundreds of pages of U.S. government documents, including internal memos, meeting minutes, and email correspondence, found that conflicts of interest, stemming in part from large government grants supporting controversial virology research, hampered the U.S. investigation into COVID-19's origin at every step. In one State Department meeting, officials seeking to demand transparency from the Chinese government say they were explicitly told by colleagues not to explore the Wuhan Institute of Virology's gain-of-function research, because it would bring unwelcome attention to U.S. government funding of it.
In an internal memo obtained by *Vanity Fair*, Thomas DiNanno, former acting assistant secretary of the State Department's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, wrote that staff from two bureaus, his own and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, "warned" leaders within his bureau "not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "'open a can of worms' if it continued."
There are reasons to doubt the lab-leak hypothesis. There is a long, well-documented history of natural spillovers leading to outbreaks, even when the initial and intermediate host animals have remained a mystery for months and years, and some expert virologists say the supposed oddities of the SARS-CoV-2 sequence have been found in nature.



Dr. Robert Redfield, former director of the CDC, said he received death threats from fellow scientists after telling CNN he thought the virus likely escaped from a lab. "I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science," he said.By Andrew Harnik/Getty Images.
But for most of the past year, the lab-leak scenario was treated not simply as unlikely or even inaccurate but as morally out-of-bounds. In late March, former Centers for Disease Control director Robert Redfield received death threats from fellow scientists

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014829
MORENS_NIH_030482
REL0000479580

after telling CNN that he believed COVID-19 had originated in a lab. "I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis," Redfield told *Vanity Fair*. "I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science."

With President Trump out of office, it should be possible to reject his xenophobic agenda and still ask why, in all places in the world, did the outbreak begin in the city with a laboratory housing one of the world's most extensive collection of bat viruses, doing some of the most aggressive research?

Dr. Richard Ebright, board of governors professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Rutgers University, said that from the very first reports of a novel bat-related coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, it took him "a nanosecond or a picosecond" to consider a link to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Only two other labs in the world, in Galveston, Texas, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, were doing similar research. "It's not a dozen cities," he said. "It's three places."

Then came the revelation that the *Lancet* statement was not only signed but organized by a zoologist named Peter Daszak, who has repackaged U.S. government grants and allocated them to facilities conducting gain-of-function research—among them the WIV itself. David Asher, now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, ran the State Department's day-to-day COVID-19 origins inquiry. He said it soon became clear that "there is a huge gain-of-function bureaucracy" inside the federal government.

As months go by without a host animal that proves the natural theory, the questions from credible doubters have gained in urgency. To one former federal health official, the situation boiled down to this: An institute "funded by American dollars is trying to teach a bat virus to infect human cells, then there is a virus" in the same city as that lab. It is "not being intellectually honest not to consider the hypothesis" of a lab escape.

And given how aggressively China blocked efforts at a transparent investigation, and in light of its government's own history of lying, obfuscating, and crushing dissent, it's fair to ask if Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute's lead coronavirus researcher, would be at liberty to report a leak from her lab even if she'd wanted to.

On May 26, the steady crescendo of questions led President Joe Biden to release a statement acknowledging that the intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios," and announce that he had asked for a more definitive conclusion within 90 days. His statement noted, "The failure to get our inspectors on the ground in those early months will always hamper any investigation into the origin of COVID-19." But that wasn't the only failure.

In the words of David Feith, former deputy assistant secretary of state in the East Asia bureau, "The story of why parts of the U.S. government were not as curious as many of us think they should have been is a hugely important one."

III. "Smelled Like a Cover-Up"

On December 9, 2020, roughly a dozen State Department employees from four different bureaus gathered in a conference room in Foggy Bottom to discuss an upcoming fact-finding mission to Wuhan organized in part by the World Health Organization. The group agreed on the need to press China to allow a thorough, credible, and transparent investigation, with unfettered access to markets, hospitals, and government laboratories. The conversation then turned to the more sensitive question: What should the U.S. government say publicly about the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

A small group within the State Department's Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance bureau had been studying the Institute for months. The group had recently acquired classified intelligence suggesting that three WIV researchers conducting gain-of-function experiments on coronavirus samples had fallen ill in the autumn of 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak was known to have started.

As officials at the meeting discussed what they could share with the public, they were advised by Christopher Park, the director of the State Department's Biological Policy Staff in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, not to say anything that would point to the U.S. government's own role in gain-of-function research, according to documentation of the meeting obtained by *Vanity Fair*.

Only two other labs in the world, in Texas and North Carolina, were doing similar research. "It's not a dozen cities," Dr. Richard Ebright said. "It's three places."

Some of the attendees were "absolutely floored," said an official familiar with the proceedings. That someone in the U.S. government could "make an argument that is so nakedly against transparency, in light of the unfolding catastrophe, was…shocking and disturbing."

Park, who in 2017 had been involved in lifting a U.S. government moratorium on funding for gain-of-function research, was not the only official to warn the State Department investigators against digging in sensitive places. As the group probed the lab-leak scenario, among other possibilities, its members were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box," said four former State Department officials interviewed by *Vanity Fair*. The admonitions "smelled like a cover-up," said Thomas DiNanno, "and I wasn't going to be part of it."

Reached for comment, Chris Park told *Vanity Fair*, "I am skeptical that people genuinely felt they were being discouraged from presenting facts." He added that he was simply arguing that it "is making an enormous and unjustifiable leap…to suggest that research of that kind [meant] that something untoward is going on."

IV. An "Antibody Response"

There were two main teams inside the U.S. government working to uncover the origins of COVID-19: one in the State Department and another under the direction of the National Security Council. No one at the State Department had much interest in Wuhan's laboratories at the start of the pandemic, but they were gravely concerned with China's apparent cover-up of the outbreak's severity. The government had shut down the Huanan market, ordered laboratory samples destroyed, claimed the right

to review any scientific research about COVID-19 ahead of publication, and expelled a team of *Wall Street Journal* reporters.
In January 2020, a Wuhan ophthalmologist named Li Wenliang, who'd tried to warn his colleagues that the pneumonia could be a form of SARS was arrested, accused of disrupting the social order, and forced to write a self-criticism. He died of COVID-19 in February, lionized by the Chinese public as a hero and whistleblower.
"You had Chinese [government] coercion and suppression," said David Feith of the State Department's East Asia bureau. "We were very concerned that they were covering it up and whether the information coming to the World Health Organization was reliable."
As questions swirled, Miles Yu, the State Department's principal China strategist, noted that the WIV had remained largely silent. Yu, who is fluent in Mandarin, began mirroring its website and compiling a dossier of questions about its research. In April, he gave his dossier to Secretary of State Pompeo, who in turn publicly demanded access to the laboratories there.
It is not clear whether Yu's dossier made its way to President Trump. But on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence put out an ambiguous statement whose apparent goal was to suppress a growing furor around the lab-leak theory. It said that the intelligence community "concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified" but would continue to assess "whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan."
State Department official Thomas DiNanno wrote a memo charging that staff from his bureau were "warned…not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "'open a can of worms' if it continued."Source: U.S. Department of State
"It was pure panic," said former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger. "They were getting flooded with queries. Someone made the unfortunate decision to say, 'We basically know nothing, so let's put out the statement.'"
Then, the bomb-thrower-in-chief weighed in. At a press briefing just hours later, Trump contradicted his own intelligence officials and claimed that he had seen classified information indicating that the virus had come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Asked what the evidence was, he said, "I can't tell you that. I'm not allowed to tell you that."
Trump's premature statement poisoned the waters for anyone seeking an honest answer to the question of where COVID-19 came from. According to Pottinger, there was an "antibody response" within the government, in which any discussion of a possible lab origin was linked to destructive nativist posturing.
The revulsion extended to the international science community, whose "maddening silence" frustrated Miles Yu. He recalled, "Anyone who dares speak out would be ostracized."

V. "Too Risky to Pursue"

The idea of a lab leak first came to NSC officials not from hawkish Trumpists but from Chinese social media users, who began sharing their suspicions as early as January 2020. Then, in February, a research paper coauthored by two Chinese scientists, based at separate Wuhan universities, appeared online as a preprint. It tackled a fundamental question: How did a novel bat coronavirus get to a major metropolis of 11 million people in central China, in the dead of winter when most bats were hibernating, and turn a market where bats weren't sold into the epicenter of an outbreak?
The paper offered an answer: "We screened the area around the seafood market and identified two laboratories conducting research on bat coronavirus." The first was the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which sat just 280 meters from the Huanan market and had been known to collect hundreds of bat samples. The second, the researchers wrote, was the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The paper came to a staggeringly blunt conclusion about COVID-19: "the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan.... Regulations may be taken to relocate these laboratories far away from city center and other densely populated places." Almost as soon as the paper appeared on the internet, it disappeared, but not before U.S. government officials took note.
By then, Matthew Pottinger had approved a COVID-19 origins team, run by the NSC directorate that oversaw issues related to weapons of mass destruction. A longtime Asia expert and former journalist, Pottinger purposefully kept the team small, because there were so many people within the government "wholly discounting the possibility of a lab leak, who were predisposed that it was impossible," said Pottinger. In addition, many leading experts had either received or approved funding for gain-of-function research. Their "conflicted" status, said Pottinger, "played a profound role in muddying the waters and contaminating the shot at having an impartial inquiry."
Peter Daszak, who repackaged U.S. government grants and allocated the funds to research institutes including the WIV, arrives there on February 3, 2021, during a fact-finding mission organized in part by the World Health Organization.By Hector RETAMAL/AFP/Getty Images.
As they combed open sources as well as classified information, the team's members soon stumbled on a 2015 research paper by Shi Zhengli and the University of North Carolina epidemiologist Ralph Baric proving that the spike protein of a novel coronavirus could infect human cells. Using mice as subjects, they inserted the protein from a Chinese rufous horseshoe bat into the molecular structure of the SARS virus from 2002, creating a new, infectious pathogen.
This gain-of-function experiment was so fraught that the authors flagged the danger themselves, writing, "scientific review panels may deem similar studies…too risky to pursue." In fact, the study was intended to raise an alarm and warn the world of "a potential risk of SARS-CoV re-emergence from viruses currently circulating in bat populations." The paper's acknowledgments cited funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and from a nonprofit called EcoHealth Alliance, which had parceled out

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014831
MORENS_NIH_030484
REL0000479580

grant money from the U.S. Agency for International Development. EcoHealth Alliance is run by Peter Daszak, the zoologist who helped organize the *Lancet* statement.

That a genetically engineered virus might have escaped from the WIV was one alarming scenario. But it was also possible that a research trip to collect bat samples could have led to infection in the field, or back at the lab.

The NSC investigators found ready evidence that China's labs were not as safe as advertised. Shi Zhengli herself had publicly acknowledged that, until the pandemic, all of her team's coronavirus research—some involving live SARS-like viruses—had been conducted in less secure BSL-3 and even BSL-2 laboratories.

In 2018, a delegation of American diplomats visited the WIV for the opening of its BSL-4 laboratory, a major event. In an unclassified cable, as a *Washington Post* columnist reported, they wrote that a shortage of highly trained technicians and clear protocols threatened the facility's safe operations. The issues had not stopped the WIV's leadership from declaring the lab "ready for research on class-four pathogens (P4), among which are the most virulent viruses that pose a high risk of aerosolized person-to-person transmission."

Click to see the full document

On February 14, 2020, to the surprise of NSC officials, President Xi Jinping of China announced a plan to fast-track a new biosecurity law to tighten safety procedures throughout the country's laboratories. Was this a response to confidential information? "In the early weeks of the pandemic, it didn't seem crazy to wonder if this thing came out of a lab," Pottinger reflected.

Apparently, it didn't seem crazy to Shi Zhengli either. A *Scientific American* article first published in March 2020, for which she was interviewed, described how her lab had been the first to sequence the virus in those terrible first weeks. It also recounted how:

[S]he frantically went through her own lab's records from the past few years to check for any mishandling of experimental materials, especially during disposal. Shi breathed a sigh of relief when the results came back: none of the sequences matched those of the viruses her team had sampled from bat caves. "That really took a load off my mind," she says. "I had not slept a wink for days."

As the NSC tracked these disparate clues, U.S. government virologists advising them flagged one study first submitted in April 2020. Eleven of its 23 coauthors worked for the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, the Chinese army's medical research institute. Using the gene-editing technology known as CRISPR, the researchers had engineered mice with humanized lungs, then studied their susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2. As the NSC officials worked backward from the date of publication to establish a timeline for the study, it became clear that the mice had been engineered sometime in the summer of 2019, before the pandemic even started. The NSC officials were left wondering: Had the Chinese military been running viruses through humanized mouse models, to see which might be infectious to humans?

Believing they had uncovered important evidence in favor of the lab-leak hypothesis, the NSC investigators began reaching out to other agencies. That's when the hammer came down. "We were dismissed," said Anthony Ruggiero, the NSC's senior director for counterproliferation and biodefense. "The response was very negative."

VI. Sticklers for Accuracy

By the summer of 2020, Gilles Demaneuf was spending up to four hours a day researching the origins of COVID-19, joining Zoom meetings before dawn with European collaborators and not sleeping much. He began to receive anonymous calls and notice strange activity on his computer, which he attributed to Chinese government surveillance. "We are being monitored for sure," he says. He moved his work to the encrypted platforms Signal and ProtonMail.

As they posted their findings, the DRASTIC researchers attracted new allies. Among the most prominent was Jamie Metzl, who launched a blog on April 16 that became a go-to site for government researchers and journalists examining the lab-leak hypothesis. A former executive vice president of the Asia Society, Metzl sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and served in the Clinton administration as the NSC's director for multilateral affairs. In his first post on the subject, he made clear that he had no definitive proof and believed that Chinese researchers at the WIV had the "best intentions." Metzl also noted, "In no way do I seek to support or align myself with any activities that may be considered unfair, dishonest, nationalistic, racist, bigoted, or biased in any way."

On December 11, 2020, Demaneuf—a stickler for accuracy—reached out to Metzl to alert him to a mistake on his blog. The 2004 SARS lab escape in Beijing, Demaneuf pointed out, had led to 11 infections, not four. Demaneuf was "impressed" by Metzl's immediate willingness to correct the information. "From that time, we started working together."

"If the pandemic started as part of a lab leak, it had the potential to do to virology what Three Mile Island and Chernobyl did to nuclear science."

Metzl, in turn, was in touch with the Paris Group, a collective of more than 30 skeptical scientific experts who met by Zoom once a month for hours-long meetings to hash out emerging clues. Before joining the Paris Group, Dr. Filippa Lentzos, a biosecurity expert at King's College London, had pushed back online against wild conspiracies. *No, COVID-19 was not a bioweapon used by the Chinese to infect American athletes at the Military World Games in Wuhan in October 2019.* But the more she researched, the more concerned she became that not every possibility was being explored. On May 1, 2020, she published a careful assessment in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* describing just how a pathogen could have escaped the Wuhan Institute of Virology. She noted that a September 2019 paper in an academic journal by the director of the WIV's BSL-4 laboratory, Yuan Zhiming, had outlined safety deficiencies in China's labs. "Maintenance cost is generally neglected," he had

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014832
MORENS_NIH_030485
REL0000479580

written. "Some BSL-3 laboratories run on extremely minimal operational costs or in some cases none at all."
Alina Chan, a young molecular biologist and postdoctoral fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University, found that early sequences of the virus showed very little evidence of mutation. Had the virus jumped from animals to humans, one would expect to see numerous adaptations, as was true in the 2002 SARS outbreak. To Chan, it appeared that SARS-CoV-2 was already "pre-adapted to human transmission," she wrote in a preprint paper in May 2020.
But perhaps the most startling find was made by an anonymous DRASTIC researcher, known on Twitter as @TheSeeker268. The Seeker, as it turns out, is a young, unemployed science teacher from Eastern India. He had begun plugging keywords into the China National Knowledge Infrastructure, a website that houses papers from 2,000 Chinese journals, and running the results through Google Translate.
One day last May, he fished up a thesis from 2013 written by a master's student in Kunming, China. The thesis opened an extraordinary window into a bat-filled mine shaft in Yunnan province and raised sharp questions about what Shi Zhengli had failed to mention in the course of making her denials.

VII. The Mojiang Miners

In 2012, six miners in the lush mountains of Mojiang county in southern Yunnan province were assigned an unenviable task: to shovel out a thick carpet of bat feces from the floor of a mine shaft. After weeks of dredging up bat guano, the miners became gravely ill and were sent to the First Affiliated Hospital at the Kunming Medical University in Yunnan's capital. Their symptoms of cough, fever, and labored breathing rang alarm bells in a country that had suffered through a viral SARS outbreak a decade earlier.
The hospital called in a pulmonologist, Zhong Nanshan, who had played a prominent role in treating SARS patients and would go on to lead an expert panel for China's National Health Commission on [b6] according to the 2013 master's thesis, immediately suspected a viral infection. He recommended a throat culture and an antibody test, but he also asked what kind of bat had produced the guano. The answer: the rufous horseshoe bat, the same species implicated in the first SARS outbreak.
Within months, three of the six miners were dead. The eldest, who was 63, died first. "The disease was acute and fierce," the thesis noted. It concluded: "the bat that caused the six patients to fall ill was the Chinese rufous horseshoe bat." Blood samples were sent to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which found that they were positive for SARS antibodies, a later Chinese dissertation documented.
A memorial for Dr. Li Wenliang, who was celebrated as a whistleblower in China after sounding the alarm about COVID-19 in January 2020. He later died of the disease.By Mark RALSTON/AFP/Getty Images.
But there was a mystery at the heart of the diagnosis. Bat coronaviruses were not known to harm humans. What was so different about the strains from inside the cave? To find out, teams of researchers from across China and beyond traveled to the abandoned mine shaft to collect viral samples from bats, musk shrews, and rats.
In an October 2013 *Nature* study, Shi Zhengli reported a key discovery: that certain bat viruses could potentially infect humans without first jumping to an intermediate animal. By isolating a live SARS-like bat coronavirus for the first time, her team had found that it could enter human cells through a protein called the ACE2 receptor.
In subsequent studies in 2014 and 2016, Shi and her colleagues continued studying samples of bat viruses collected from the mine shaft, hoping to figure out which one had infected the miners. The bats were bristling with multiple coronaviruses. But there was only one whose genome closely resembled SARS. The researchers named it RaBtCoV/4991.
On February 3, 2020, with the COVID-19 outbreak already spreading beyond China, Shi Zhengli and several colleagues published a paper noting that the SARS-CoV-2 virus's genetic code was almost 80% identical to that of SARS-CoV, which caused the 2002 outbreak. But they also reported that it was 96.2% identical to a coronavirus sequence in their possession called RaTG13, which was previously detected in "Yunnan province." They concluded that RaTG13 was the closest known relative to SARS-CoV-2.
In the following months, as researchers around the world hunted for any known bat virus that might be a progenitor of SARS-CoV-2, Shi Zhengli offered shifting and sometimes contradictory accounts of where RaTG13 had come from and when it was fully sequenced. Searching a publicly available library of genetic sequences, several teams, including a group of DRASTIC researchers, soon realized that RaTG13 appeared identical to RaBtCoV/4991—the virus that had sickened the miners in 2012 with what looked like COVID-19.
In July, as questions mounted, Shi Zhengli told *Science* magazine that her lab had renamed the sample for clarity. But to skeptics, the renaming exercise looked like an effort to hide the sample's connection to the Mojiang mine.
Their questions multiplied the following month when Shi, Daszak, and their colleagues published an account of 630 novel coronaviruses they had sampled between 2010 and 2015. Combing through the supplementary data, DRASTIC researchers were stunned to find eight more viruses from the Mojiang mine that were closely related to RaTG13 but had not been flagged in the account. Alina Chan of the Broad Institute said it was "mind-boggling" that these crucial puzzle pieces had been buried without comment.
In October 2020, as questions about the Mojiang mine shaft intensified, a team of journalists from the BBC tried to access the mine itself. They were tailed by plainclothes police officers and found the road conveniently blocked by a broken-down truck. Shi, by now facing growing scrutiny from the international press corps, told the BBC: "I've just downloaded the Kunming Hospital University's student's master's thesis and read it.... The conclusion is neither based on evidence nor logic. But it's used

by conspiracy theorists to doubt me. If you were me, what would you do?"

VIII. The Gain-of-Function Debate

On January 3, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, got a phone call from his counterpart Dr. George Fu Gao, head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Gao described the appearance of a mysterious new pneumonia, apparently limited to people exposed at a market in Wuhan. Redfield immediately offered to send a team of specialists to help investigate.

But when Redfield saw the breakdown of early cases, some of which were family clusters, the market explanation made less sense. Had multiple family members gotten sick via contact with the same animal? Gao assured him there was no human-to-human transmission, says Redfield, who nevertheless urged him to test more widely in the community. That effort prompted a tearful return call. Many cases had nothing to do with the market, Gao admitted. The virus appeared to be jumping from person to person, a far scarier scenario.

Former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger said the "conflicted" status of leading experts who had either approved or received funding for gain-of-function research "played a profound role in muddying the waters and contaminating the shot at having an impartial inquiry."By Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post/Getty Images.

Redfield immediately thought of the Wuhan Institute of Virology. A team could rule it out as a source of the outbreak in just a few weeks, by testing researchers there for antibodies. Redfield formally reiterated his offer to send specialists, but Chinese officials didn't respond to his overture.

Redfield, a virologist by training, was suspicious of the WIV in part because he'd been steeped in the yearslong battle over gain-of-function research. The debate engulfed the virology community in 2011, after Ron Fouchier, a researcher at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, announced that he had genetically altered the H5N1 avian influenza strain to make it transmissible among ferrets, who are genetically closer to humans than mice. Fouchier calmly declared that he'd produced "probably one of the most dangerous viruses you could make."

In the ensuing uproar, scientists battled over the risks and benefits of such research. Those in favor claimed it could help prevent pandemics, by highlighting potential risks and accelerating vaccine development. Critics argued that creating pathogens that didn't exist in nature ran the risk of unleashing them.

In October 2014, the Obama administration imposed a moratorium on new funding for gain-of-function research projects that could make influenza, MERS, or SARS viruses more virulent or transmissible. But a footnote to the statement announcing the moratorium carved out an exception for cases deemed "urgently necessary to protect the public health or national security."

In the first year of the Trump administration, the moratorium was lifted and replaced with a review system called the HHS P3CO Framework (for Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight). It put the onus for ensuring the safety of any such research on the federal department or agency funding it. This left the review process shrouded in secrecy. "The names of reviewers are not released, and the details of the experiments to be considered are largely secret," said the Harvard epidemiologist Dr. Marc Lipsitch, whose advocacy against gain-of-function research helped prompt the moratorium. (An NIH spokesperson told *Vanity Fair* that "information about individual unfunded applications is not public to preserve confidentiality and protect sensitive information, preliminary data, and intellectual property.")

Inside the NIH, which funded such research, the P3CO framework was largely met with shrugs and eye rolls, said a longtime agency official: "If you ban gain-of-function research, you ban all of virology." He added, "Ever since the moratorium, everyone's gone wink-wink and just done gain-of-function research anyway."

British-born Peter Daszak, 55, is the president of EcoHealth Alliance, a New York City–based nonprofit with the laudable goal of preventing the outbreak of emerging diseases by safeguarding ecosystems. In May 2014, five months before the moratorium on gain-of-function research was announced, EcoHealth secured a NIAID grant of roughly $3.7 million, which it allocated in part to various entities engaged in collecting bat samples, building models, and performing gain-of-function experiments to see which animal viruses were able to jump to humans. The grant was not halted under the moratorium or the P3CO framework.

By 2018, EcoHealth Alliance was pulling in up to $15 million a year in grant money from an array of federal agencies, including the Defense Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, according to 990 tax exemption forms it filed with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau. Shi Zhengli herself listed U.S. government grant support of more than $1.2 million on her curriculum vitae: $665,000 from the NIH between 2014 and 2019; and $559,500 over the same period from USAID. At least some of those funds were routed through EcoHealth Alliance.

EcoHealth Alliance's practice of divvying up large government grants into smaller sub-grants for individual labs and institutions gave it enormous sway within the field of virology. The sums at stake allow it to "purchase a lot of omertà" from the labs it supports, said Richard Ebright of Rutgers. (In response to detailed questions, an EcoHealth Alliance spokesperson said on behalf of the organization and Daszak, "We have no comment.")

As the pandemic raged, the collaboration between EcoHealth Alliance and the WIV wound up in the crosshairs of the Trump administration. At a White House COVID-19 press briefing on April 17, 2020, a reporter from the conspiratorial right-wing media outlet Newsmax asked Trump a factually inaccurate question about a $3.7 million NIH grant to a level-four lab in China. "Why would the U.S. give a grant like that to China?" the reporter asked.

Trump responded, "We will end that grant very quickly," adding, "Who was president then, I wonder."

A week later, an NIH official notified Daszak in writing that his grant had been terminated. The order had come from the White House, Dr. Anthony Fauci later testified before a congressional committee. The decision fueled a firestorm: 81 Nobel Laureates

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014834
MORENS_NIH_030487
REL0000479580

in science denounced the decision in an open letter to Trump health officials, and *60 Minutes* ran a segment focused on the Trump administration's shortsighted politicization of science.

Daszak appeared to be the victim of a political hit job, orchestrated to blame China, Dr. Fauci, and scientists in general for the pandemic, while distracting from the Trump administration's bungled response. "He's basically a wonderful, decent human being" and an "old-fashioned altruist," said the NIH official. "To see this happening to him, it really kills me."

Click to see the full document

Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

In July, the NIH attempted to backtrack. It reinstated the grant but suspended its research activities until EcoHealth Alliance fulfilled seven conditions, some of which went beyond the nonprofit's purview and seemed to stray into tinfoil-hat territory. They included: providing information on the "apparent disappearance" of a Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher, who was rumored on social media to be patient zero, and explaining diminished cell phone traffic and roadblocks around the WIV in October 2019.

But conspiracy-minded conservatives weren't the only ones looking askance at Daszak. Ebright likened Daszak's model of research—bringing samples from a remote area to an urban one, then sequencing and growing viruses and attempting to genetically modify them to make them more virulent—to "looking for a gas leak with a lighted match." Moreover, Ebright believed that Daszak's research had failed in its stated purpose of predicting and preventing pandemics through its global collaborations.

It soon emerged, based on emails obtained by a Freedom of Information group called U.S. Right to Know, that Daszak had not only signed but organized the influential *Lancet* statement, with the intention of concealing his role and creating the impression of scientific unanimity.

Under the subject line, "No need for you to sign the "Statement" Ralph!!," he wrote to two scientists, including UNC's Dr. Ralph Baric, who had collaborated with Shi Zhengli on the gain-of-function study that created a coronavirus capable of infecting human cells: "you, me and him should not sign this statement, so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way." Daszak added, "We'll then put it out in a way that doesn't link it back to our collaboration so we maximize an independent voice."

Baric agreed, writing back, "Otherwise it looks self-serving and we lose impact."

Baric did not sign the statement. In the end, Daszak did. At least six other signers had either worked at, or had been funded by, EcoHealth Alliance. The statement ended with a declaration of objectivity: "We declare no competing interests."

Daszak mobilized so quickly for a reason, said Jamie Metzl: "If zoonosis was the origin, it was a validation…of his life work…. But if the pandemic started as part of a lab leak, it had the potential to do to virology what Three Mile Island and Chernobyl did to nuclear science." It could mire the field indefinitely in moratoriums and funding restrictions.

IX. Dueling Memos

By the summer of 2020, the State Department's COVID-19 origins investigation had gone cold. Officials in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance went back to their normal work: surveilling the world for biological threats. "We weren't looking for Wuhan," said Thomas DiNanno. That fall, the State Department team got a tip from a foreign source: Key information was likely sitting in the U.S. intelligence community's own files, unanalyzed. In November, that lead turned up classified information that was "absolutely arresting and shocking," said a former State Department official. Three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, all connected with gain-of-function research on coronaviruses, had fallen ill in November 2019 and appeared to have visited the hospital with symptoms similar to COVID-19, three government officials told *Vanity Fair*. While it is not clear what had sickened them, "these were not the janitors," said the former State Department official. "They were active researchers. The dates were among the absolute most arresting part of the picture, because they are smack where they would be if this was the origin." The reaction inside the State Department was, "Holy shit," one former senior official recalled. "We should probably tell our bosses." The investigation roared back to life.

An intelligence analyst working with David Asher sifted through classified channels and turned up a report that outlined why the lab-leak hypothesis was plausible. It had been written in May by researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which performs national security research for the Department of Energy. But it appeared to have been buried within the classified collections system.

Jamie Metzl's blog became a go-to site for government researchers and journalists examining the lab-leak hypothesis. In his first post on the subject, he wrote, "In no way do I seek to support or align myself with any activities that may be considered unfair, dishonest, nationalistic, racist, bigoted, or biased in any way."By Alex Wong/Getty Images.

Now the officials were beginning to suspect that someone was actually hiding materials supportive of a lab-leak explanation. "Why did my contractor have to pore through documents?" DiNanno wondered. Their suspicion intensified when Department of Energy officials overseeing the Lawrence Livermore lab unsuccessfully tried to block the State Department investigators from talking to the report's authors.

Their frustration crested in December, when they finally briefed Chris Ford, acting undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security. He seemed so hostile to their probe that they viewed him as a blinkered functionary bent on whitewashing China's malfeasance. But Ford, who had years of experience in nuclear nonproliferation, had long been a China hawk. Ford told *Vanity Fair* that he saw his job as protecting the integrity of any inquiry into COVID-19's origins that fell under his purview. Going with "stuff that makes us look like the crackpot brigade" would backfire, he believed.

There was another reason for his hostility. He'd already heard about the investigation from interagency colleagues, rather than from the team itself, and the secrecy left him with a "spidey sense" that the process was a form of "creepy freelancing." He wondered: Had someone launched an unaccountable investigation with the goal of achieving a desired result?

He was not the only one with concerns. As one senior government official with knowledge of the State Department's investigation said, "They were writing this for certain customers in the Trump administration. We asked for the reporting behind the statements that were made. It took forever. Then you'd read the report, it would have this reference to a tweet and a date. It was not something you could go back and find."

After listening to the investigators' findings, a technical expert in one of the State Department's bioweapons offices "thought they were bonkers," Ford recalled.

The State Department team, for its part, believed that Ford was the one trying to impose a preconceived conclusion: that COVID-19 had a natural origin. A week later, one of them attended the meeting where Christopher Park, who worked under Ford, advised those present not to draw attention to U.S. funding of gain-of-function research.

With deep distrust simmering, the State Department team convened a panel of experts to confidentially "red team" the lab-leak hypothesis. The idea was to pummel the theory and see if it still stood. The panel took place on the evening of January 7, one day after the insurrection at the Capitol. By then, Ford had announced his plan to resign.

Twenty-nine people logged on to a secure State Department video call that lasted three hours, according to meeting minutes obtained by *Vanity Fair*. The scientific experts included Ralph Baric, Alina Chan, and the Stanford microbiologist David Relman.

Asher invited Dr. Steven Quay, a breast cancer specialist who'd founded a biopharmaceutical company, to present a statistical analysis weighing the probability of a lab origin versus a natural one. Scissoring Quay's analysis, Baric noted that its calculations failed to account for the millions of bat sequences that exist in nature but remain unknown. When a State Department adviser asked Quay whether he'd ever done a similar analysis, he replied there's "a first time for everything," according to the meeting minutes.

Though they questioned Quay's findings, the scientists saw other reasons to suspect a lab origin. Part of the WIV's mission was to sample the natural world and provide early warnings of "human capable viruses," said Relman. The 2012 infections of six miners was "worthy of banner headlines at the time." Yet those cases had never been reported to the WHO.

Baric added that, if SARS-CoV-2 had come from a "strong animal reservoir," one might have expected to see "multiple introduction events," rather than a single outbreak, though he cautioned that it didn't prove "[this] was an escape from a laboratory." That prompted Asher to ask, "Could this not have been partially bioengineered?"

Ford was so troubled by what he viewed as the panel's weak evidence, and the secretive inquiry that preceded it, that he stayed up all night summarizing his concerns in a four-page memo. After saving it as a PDF so it couldn't be altered, he emailed the memo to multiple State Department officials the next morning.

Click to see the full document

In the memo, Ford criticized the panel's "lack of data" and added, "I would also caution you against suggesting that there is anything inherently suspicious—and suggestive of biological warfare activity—about People's Liberation Army (PLA) involvement at WIV on classified projects. [I]t would be difficult to say that military involvement in classified virus research is intrinsically problematic, since the U.S. Army has been deeply involved in virus research in the United States for many years."

Click to see the full document

Thomas DiNanno sent back a five-page rebuttal to Ford's memo the next day, January 9 (though it was mistakenly dated "12/9/21"). He accused Ford of misrepresenting the panel's efforts and enumerated the obstacles his team had faced: "apprehension and contempt" from the technical staff; warnings not to investigate the origins of COVID-19 for fear of opening a "can of worms"; and a "complete lack of responses to briefings and presentations." He added that Quay had been invited only after the National Intelligence Council failed to provide statistical help.

A year's worth of mutual suspicions had finally spilled out into dueling memos.

The State Department investigators pushed on, determined to go public with their concerns. They continued a weeks-long effort to declassify information that had been vetted by the intelligence community. On January 15, five days before President Joe Biden's swearing in, the State Department released a fact sheet about activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, disclosing key information: that several researchers there had fallen ill with COVID-19-like symptoms in autumn 2019, before the first identified outbreak case; and that researchers there had collaborated on secret projects with China's military and "engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017."

The statement withstood "aggressive suspicion," as one former State Department official said, and the Biden administration has not walked it back. "I was very pleased to see Pompeo's statement come through," said Chris Ford. "I was so relieved that they were using real reporting that had been vetted and cleared."

X. A Fact-Finding Mission to Wuhan

In early July, the World Health Organization invited the U.S. government to recommend experts for a fact-finding mission to Wuhan, a sign of progress in the long-delayed probe of COVID-19's origins. Questions about the WHO's independence from China, the country's secrecy, and the raging pandemic had turned the anticipated mission into a minefield of international grudges and suspicion.

Within weeks, the U.S. government submitted three names to the WHO: an FDA veterinarian, a CDC epidemiologist, and an

NIAID virologist. None were chosen. Instead, only one representative from the U.S. made the cut: Peter Daszak.
It had been evident from the start that China would control who could come and what they could see. In July, when the WHO sent member countries a draft of the terms governing the mission, the PDF document was titled, "CHN and WHO agreed final version," suggesting that China had preapproved its contents.
Part of the fault lay with the Trump administration, which had failed to counter China's control over the scope of the mission when it was being hammered out two months earlier. The resolution, forged at the World Health Assembly, called not for a full inquiry into the origins of the pandemic but instead for a mission "to identify the zoonotic source of the virus." The natural-origin hypothesis was baked into the enterprise. "It was a huge difference that only the Chinese understood," said Jamie Metzl. "While the [Trump] administration was huffing and puffing, some really important things were happening around the WHO, and the U.S. didn't have a voice."
In 2012, the prominent pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan consulted on a case of miners who fell ill after digging bat feces out of a cave in Mojiang county. Their symptoms of cough, fever, and labored breathing recalled the 2002 SARS outbreak but also foreshadowed the COVID-19 pandemic.From TPG/Getty Images.
On January 14, 2021, Daszak and 12 other international experts arrived in Wuhan to join 17 Chinese experts and an entourage of government minders. They spent two weeks of the monthlong mission quarantined in their hotel rooms. The remaining two-week inquiry was more propaganda than probe, complete with a visit to an exhibit extolling President Xi's leadership. The team saw almost no raw data, only the Chinese government analysis of it.
They paid one visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they met with Shi Zhengli, as recounted in an annex to the mission report. One obvious demand would have been access to the WIV's database of some 22,000 virus samples and sequences, which had been taken offline. At an event convened by a London organization on March 10, Daszak was asked whether the group had made such a request. He said there was no need: Shi Zhengli had stated that the WIV took down the database due to hacking attempts during the pandemic. "Absolutely reasonable," Daszak said. "And we did not ask to see the data…. As you know, a lot of this work has been conducted with EcoHealth Alliance…. We do basically know what's in those databases. There is no evidence of viruses closer to SARS-CoV-2 than RaTG13 in those databases, simple as that."
In fact, the database had been taken offline on September 12, 2019, three months before the official start of the pandemic, a detail uncovered by Gilles Demaneuf and two of his DRASTIC colleagues.
After two weeks of fact finding, the Chinese and international experts concluded their mission by voting with a show of hands on which origin scenario seemed most probable. Direct transmission from bat to human: *possible to likely.* Transmission through an intermediate animal: *likely to very likely.* Transmission through frozen food: *possible.* Transmission through a laboratory incident: *extremely unlikely.*
On March 30, 2021, media outlets around the world reported on the release of the mission's 120-page report. Discussion of a lab leak took up less than two pages. Calling the report "fatally flawed," Jamie Metzl tweeted: "They set out to prove one hypothesis, not fairly examine all of them."
The report also recounted how Shi rebutted conspiracy theories and told the visiting team of experts that "there had been no reports of unusual diseases, none diagnosed, and all staff tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies." Her statement directly contradicted the findings summarized in the January 15 State Department fact sheet. "That was a willful lie by people who know it's not true," said a former national security official.
Click to see the full document
An internal U.S. government analysis of the mission's report, obtained by *Vanity Fair,* found it to be inaccurate and even contradictory, with some sections undermining conclusions made elsewhere and others relying on reference papers that had been withdrawn. Regarding the four possible origins, the analysis stated, the report "does not include a description of how these hypotheses were generated, would be tested, or how a decision would be made between them to decide that one is more likely than another." It added that a possible laboratory incident received only a "cursory" look, and the "evidence presented seems insufficient to deem the hypothesis 'extremely unlikely.'"
The report's most surprising critic was the WHO's director himself, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia. With the credibility of the World Health Organization on the line, he appeared to acknowledge the report's shortcomings at a press event the day of its release. "As far as WHO is concerned all hypotheses remain on the table," he said. "We have not yet found the source of the virus, and we must continue to follow the science and leave no stone unturned as we do."
His statement reflected "monumental courage," said Metzl. "Tedros risked his entire career to defend the integrity of the WHO." (The WHO declined to make Tedros available for an interview.)
By then, an international coalition of roughly two dozen scientists, among them DRASTIC researcher Gilles Demaneuf and EcoHealth critic Richard Ebright at Rutgers, had found a way around what Metzl described as a "wall of rejections" by scientific journals. With Metzl's guidance, they began publishing open letters in early March. Their second letter, issued on April 7, condemned the mission report and called for a full investigation into the origin of COVID-19. It was picked up widely by national newspapers.
A growing number of people were demanding to know what exactly had gone on inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Were the claims in the State Department's fact sheet—of sick researchers and secret military research—accurate?
Metzl had managed to question Shi directly a week before the release of the mission report. At a March 23 online lecture by Shi, hosted by Rutgers Medical School, Metzl asked if she had full knowledge of all the research being done at the WIV and all the

viruses held there, and if the U.S. government was correct that classified military research had taken place. She responded: We—our work, our research is open, and we have a lot of international collaboration. And from my knowledge, all our research work is open, is transparency. So, at the beginning of COVID-19, we heard the rumors that it's claimed in our laboratory we have some project, blah blah, with army, blah blah, these kinds of rumors. But this is not correct because I am the lab's director and responsible for research activity. I don't know any kind of research work performed in this lab. This is incorrect information.
A major argument against the lab-leak theory hinged on the presumption that Shi was telling the truth when she said the WIV was not hiding any virus samples that are closer cousins to SARS-CoV-2. In Metzl's view, if she was lying about the military's involvement, or anything else, then all bets were off.

XI. Inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology

In January 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology issued a press release hailing Shi Zhengli's "distinguished and pioneering achievement in discovery and characterization of important bat-borne viruses." The occasion was her election as a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Microbiology—just the latest milestone in a glittering scientific career. In China, the celebrated "Bat Woman" was easily recognizable from photos showing her in a full-body positive-pressure suit inside the WIV's BSL-4 lab.
Shi was a fixture at international virology conferences, thanks to her "state-of-the-art" work, said James LeDuc, the longtime director of the BSL-4 Galveston National Laboratory in Texas. At the international meetings he organized, Shi was a regular, along with Ralph Baric from UNC. "She's a charming person, completely fluent in English and French," said LeDuc. Sounding almost wistful, he added, "This is how science works. You get everyone together, they share their data, go out and have a beer."
Shi's journey to the top of the virology field had begun with treks to remote bat caves in southernmost China. In 2006, she trained at the BSL-4 Jean Merieux-Inserm Laboratory in Lyon, France. She was named director of the WIV's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases in 2011, and its BSL-3 lab director in 2013.
It's hard to think of anyone, anywhere, who was better prepared to meet the challenge of COVID-19. On December 30, 2019, at around 7 p.m., Shi received a call from her boss, the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, according to an account she gave to *Scientific American*. He wanted her to investigate several cases of patients hospitalized with a mysterious pneumonia: "Drop whatever you are doing and deal with it now."
The next day, by analyzing seven patient samples, her team became one of the first to sequence and identify the ailment as a novel SARS-related coronavirus. By January 21, she had been appointed to lead the Hubei Province COVID-19 Emergency Scientific Research Expert Group. At a terrifying moment, in a country that exalted its scientists, she had reached a pinnacle.
But her ascent came at a cost. There is reason to believe she was hardly free to speak her mind or follow a scientific path that didn't conform to China's party line. Though Shi had planned to share isolated samples of the virus with her friend James LeDuc in Galveston, Beijing officials blocked her. And by mid-January, a team of military scientists led by China's top virologist and biochemical expert, Major General Chen Wei, had set up operations inside the WIV.
Under scrutiny from governments including her own, with bizarre conspiracy theories and legitimate doubts swirling around her, she began lashing out at critics. "The 2019 novel coronavirus is a punishment from nature for humanity's uncivilized habits," she wrote in a February 2 post on WeChat, a popular social media app in China. "I, Shi Zhengli, guarantee on my life that it has nothing to do with our lab. May I offer some advice to those people who believe and spread bad media rumors: shut your dirty mouths."
Though Shi has portrayed the WIV as a transparent hub of international research beset by false allegations, the State Department's January fact sheet painted a different picture: of a facility conducting classified military research, and hiding it, which Shi adamantly denies. But a former national security official who reviewed U.S. classified materials told *Vanity Fair* that inside the WIV, military and civilian researchers are "doing animal research in the same fricking space."
While that, in and of itself, does not prove a lab leak, Shi's alleged lies about it are "absolutely material," said a former State Department official. "It speaks to the honesty and credibility of the WIV that they kept this secret…. You have a web of lies, coercion, and disinformation that is killing people."
Vanity Fair sent Shi Zhengli and the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology detailed questions. Neither responded to multiple requests for comment by email and phone.
As officials at the NSC tracked collaborations between the WIV and military scientists—which stretch back 20 years, with 51 coauthored papers—they also took note of a book flagged by a college student in Hong Kong. Written by a team of 18 authors and editors, 11 of whom worked at China's Air Force Medical University, the book, *Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Man-Made Viruses as Genetic Bioweapons*, explores issues surrounding the development of bioweapons capabilities. Claiming that terrorists using gene editing had created SARS-CoV-1 as a bioweapon, the book contained some alarming practical trade craft: "Bioweapon aerosol attacks are best conducted during dawn, dusk, night or cloudy weather because ultraviolet rays can damage the pathogens." And it cited collateral benefits, noting that a sudden surge of hospitalizations could cause a healthcare system to collapse. One of the book's editors has collaborated on 12 scientific papers with researchers at the WIV.
University of North Carolina virologist Ralph Baric collaborated with Shi Zhengli on a gain-of-function coronavirus experiment in 2015. In February 2020, he privately expressed support for Peter Daszak's *Lancet* statement dismissing the lab-leak theory. More recently, he signed a letter calling for a transparent investigation of all hypotheses.By Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

The book's dramatic rhetoric could have been hype by Chinese military researchers trying to sell books, or a pitch to the People's Liberation Army for funding to launch a biowarfare program. When a reporter with the Rupert Murdoch–owned newspaper *The Australian* published details from the book under the headline "Chinese Held Talks on Bioweapons Benefits," the *Global Times*, a Chinese state-owned media outlet, ridiculed the article, noting that the supposedly "leaked" book was for sale on Amazon.

The inflammatory idea of SARS-CoV-2-as-bioweapon has gained traction as an alt-right conspiracy theory, but civilian research under Shi's supervision that has yet to be made public raises more realistic concerns. Shi's own comments to a science journal, and grant information available on a Chinese government database, suggest that in the past three years her team has tested two novel but undisclosed bat coronaviruses on humanized mice, to gauge their infectiousness.

In April 2021, in an editorial in the journal *Infectious Diseases & Immunity*, Shi resorted to a familiar tactic to contain the cloud of suspicion enveloping her: She invoked scientific consensus, just as the *Lancet* statement had. "The scientific community strongly dismisses these unproven and misleading speculations and generally accepts that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin and was selected either in an animal host before zoonotic transfer, or in humans following zoonotic transfer," she wrote.

But Shi's editorial had no muzzling effect. On May 14, in a statement published in *Science Magazine*, 18 prominent scientists called for a "transparent, objective" investigation into COVID-19's origins, noting, "We must take hypotheses about both natural and laboratory spillovers seriously until we have sufficient data."

Among the signers was Ralph Baric. Fifteen months earlier, he had worked behind the scenes to help Peter Daszak stage-manage the *Lancet* statement. The scientific consensus had been smashed to smithereens.

XII. Out of the Shadows

By spring of 2021, the debate over COVID-19's origins had become so noxious that death threats were flying in both directions. In a CNN interview on March 26, Dr. Redfield, the former CDC director under Trump, made a candid admission: "I am of the point of view that I still think the most likely etiology of this pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory, you know, escaped." Redfield added that he believed the release was an accident, not an intentional act. In his view, nothing that happened since his first calls with Dr. Gao changed a simple fact: The WIV needed to be ruled out as a source, and it hadn't been.

After the interview aired, death threats flooded his inbox. The vitriol came not just from strangers who thought he was being racially insensitive but also from prominent scientists, some of whom used to be his friends. One said he should just "wither and die."

Peter Daszak was getting death threats too, some from QAnon conspirators.

Inside the U.S. government, meanwhile, the lab-leak hypothesis had survived the transition from Trump to Biden. On April 15, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the House Intelligence Committee that two "plausible theories" were being weighed: a lab accident or natural emergence.

Even so, lab-leak talk was mostly confined to right-wing news outlets through April, gleefully flogged by Tucker Carlson and studiously avoided by most of the mainstream media. In Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee's Republican minority had launched its own inquiry, but there was little buy-in from Democrats and the NIH didn't provide responses to its lengthy list of demands for information.

The ground began to shift on May 2, when Nicholas Wade, a former *New York Times* science writer known in part for writing a controversial book about how genes shape the social behavior of different races, published a lengthy essay on Medium. In it, he analyzed the scientific clues both for and against a lab leak, and excoriated the media for its failure to report on the dueling hypotheses. Wade devoted a full section to the "furin cleavage site," a distinctive segment of SARS-CoV-2's genetic code that makes the virus more infectious by allowing it to efficiently enter human cells.

Within the scientific community, one thing leapt off the page. Wade quoted one of the world's most famous microbiologists, Dr. David Baltimore, saying that he believed the furin cleavage site "was the smoking gun for the origin of the virus." Baltimore, a Nobel Laureate and pioneer in molecular biology, was about as far from Steve Bannon and the conspiracy theorists as it was possible to get. His judgment, that the furin cleavage site raised the prospect of gene manipulation, had to be taken seriously.

With questions growing, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins released a statement on May 19 asserting that "neither NIH nor NIAID have ever approved any grant that would have supported 'gain-of-function' research on coronaviruses that would have increased their transmissibility or lethality for humans."

On May 24, the WHO's decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, kicked off a virtual edition of its annual conference. In the weeks leading up to it, a parade of high-profile stories broke, including two front-page reports in *The Wall Street Journal* and a long Medium post from a second former *New York Times* science reporter. Not surprisingly, China's government fired back during the conference, saying that it would not participate in further inquiries within its borders.

On May 28, two days after President Biden announced his 90-day intelligence review, the U.S. Senate passed a unanimous resolution, which Jamie Metzl had helped shape, calling on the World Health Organization to launch a comprehensive investigation into the origins of the virus.

Will we ever know the truth? Dr. David Relman of Stanford University School of Medicine has been advocating for an investigation like the 9/11 Commission to examine COVID-19's origins. But 9/11 took place in one day, he said, whereas "this has so many different manifestations, consequences, responses across nations. All of that makes it a hundred-dimensional problem."

The bigger problem is that so much time has gone by. "With every passing day and week, the kinds of information that might prove helpful will have a tendency to dissipate and disappear," he said. "The world ages and things get moved, and biological

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014839
MORENS_NIH_030492
REL0000479580

signals degrade."
China obviously bears responsibility for stonewalling investigators. Whether it did so out of sheer authoritarian habit or because it had a lab leak to hide is, and may always be, unknown.
The United States deserves a healthy share of blame as well. Thanks to their unprecedented track record of mendacity and race-baiting, Trump and his allies had less than zero credibility. And the practice of funding risky research via cutouts like EcoHealth Alliance enmeshed leading virologists in conflicts of interest at the exact moment their expertise was most desperately needed.
Now, at least, there appears to be the prospect of a level inquiry—the kind Gilles Demaneuf and Jamie Metzl had wanted from the start. "We needed to create a space where all of the hypotheses could be considered," Metzl said.
If the lab-leak explanation proves accurate, history may credit Demaneuf and his fellow doubters for breaking the dam—not that they have any intention of stopping. They are now knee-deep in examining the WIV's construction orders, sewage output, and cell phone traffic. The thought driving Paris Group cofounder Virginie Courtier forward is simple: "There are unanswered questions," she says, "and a few human beings know the answers."
Additional reporting by Lili Pike, with research assistance from Stan Friedman.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 20 Feb 2023 9:01:07 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 20 Feb 2023 8:59:28 PM -0500
Subject: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Alison Andre [b6];
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; Coalition concept note Draft v4 2.20.23.docx

Dear all – can we set up a call maybe next week to talk about building a Coalition to protect science.

Alison – could you look at availability for the week beginning Feb 27th or March 6th for us all…

I've also attached a revised version of the Coalition concept note. Jeff re-wrote this following our call and we also reached out to a political consultant to get his input on how this would be perceived from both Dems and moderate Republicans. I added a few comments using track changes. Please feel free to add to this also.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Update

Fyi Ann Moscona is in NY, a good person for EHA to connect with. She's a superb virologist mostly on respiratory virus pathogenesis and drug development

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
b6
g
iPhone

On Feb 1, 2023, at 5:28 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Awesome to hear that!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: [b6]

Media Inquiries:
[b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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
[b6]

Meeting ID: b6
Passcode: b6
One tap mobile
b6 US (New York)
b6 US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

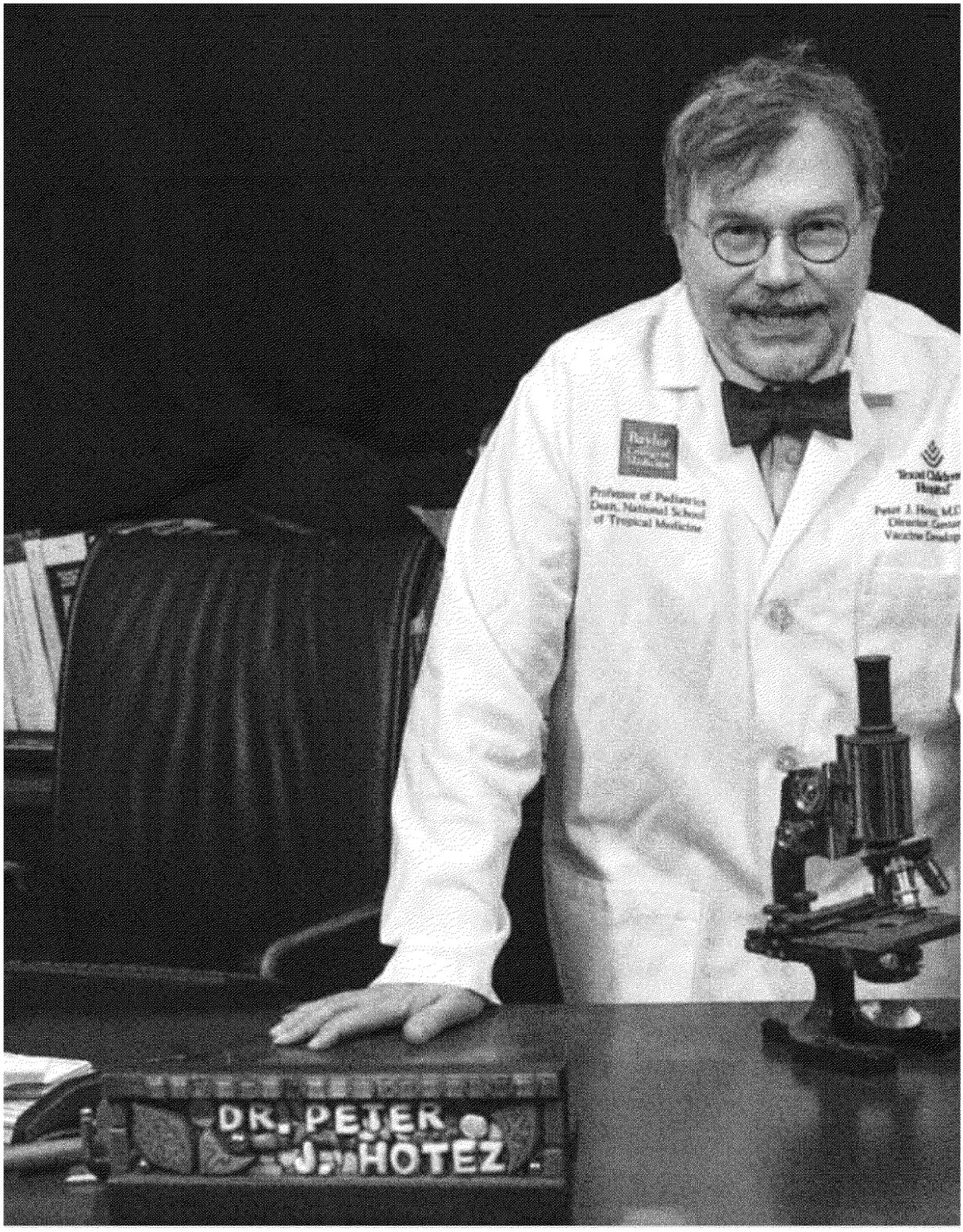
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019302
MORENS_NIH_038853
REL0000479581

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019304
MORENS_NIH_038855
REL0000479581

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019305
MORENS_NIH_038856
REL0000479581

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019306
MORENS_NIH_038857
REL0000479581

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?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019307
MORENS_NIH_038858
REL0000479581

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019308
MORENS_NIH_038859
REL0000479581

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]> Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

> On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens [b6] 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 <[b6]> 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019309
MORENS_NIH_038860
REL0000479581

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Hotez, Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019310
MORENS_NIH_038861
REL0000479581

Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ;
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 effrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019311
MORENS_NIH_038862
REL0000479581

New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

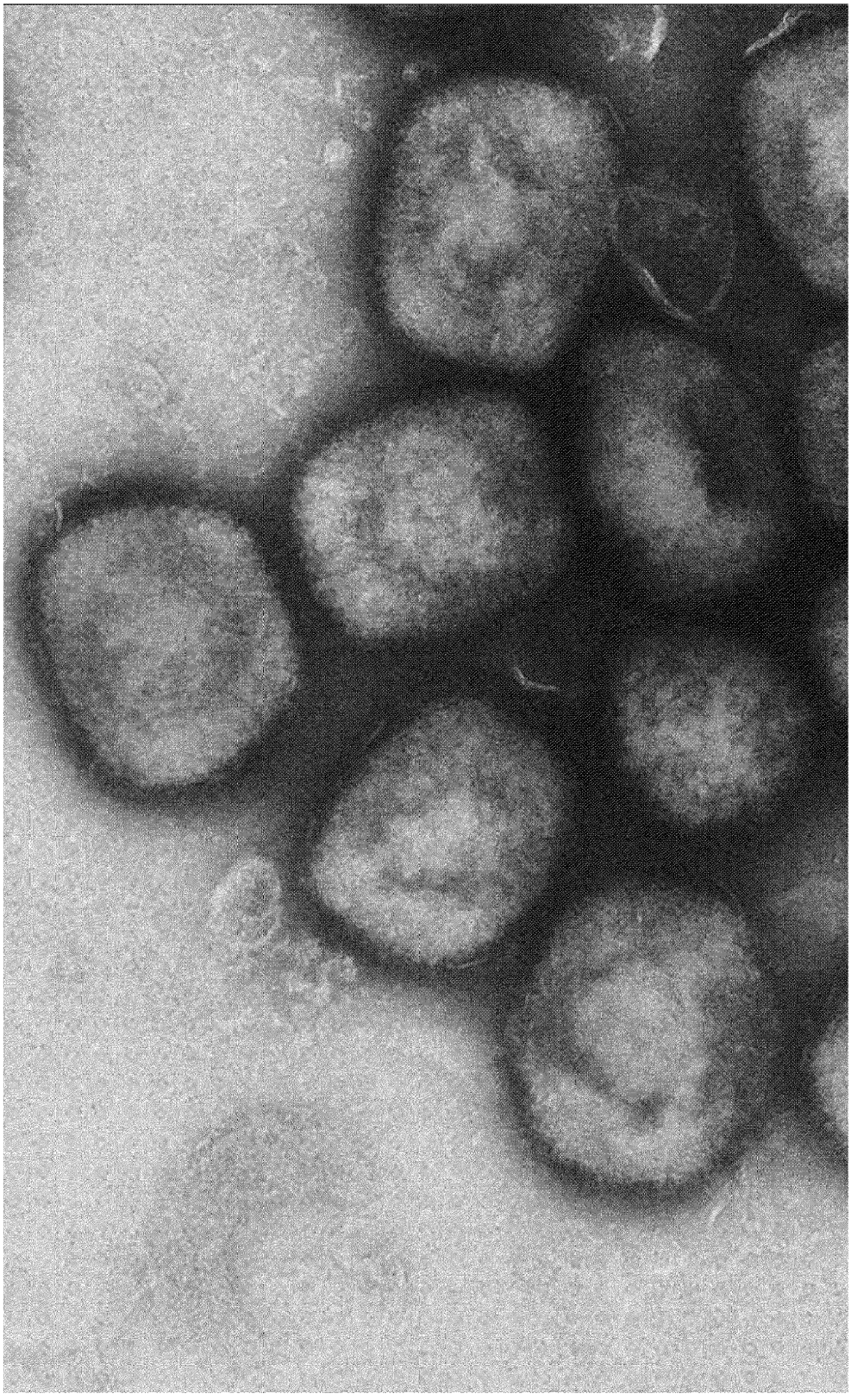
BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019313
MORENS_NIH_038864
REL0000479581

or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019314
MORENS_NIH_038865
REL0000479581

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019315
MORENS_NIH_038866
REL0000479581

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Rich Roberts < b6
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019316
MORENS_NIH_038867
REL0000479581

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 <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019317
MORENS_NIH_038868
REL0000479581

scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano [b6] | Phone [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
[b6]
[b6]
iPhone

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] 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 Scott Weaver would be rejected

from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Gerald Keusch b6 Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while

supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the b6 r from b6 - 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 <
> b6 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019320
MORENS_NIH_038871
REL0000479581

a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; David Morens < b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019321
MORENS_NIH_038872
REL0000479581

for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak < b6 >; 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 < b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Rich Roberts < b6 >
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow,

Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6

b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:35:16 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:32 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 7:27 PM
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >, Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get

a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 David Morens
b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei
Chmura b6 >; Peter Daszak
b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Peter:

That’s good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Peter Daszak
b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens b6 >
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]" b6
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002420
MORENS_NIH_008936
REL0000479584

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for Mother Jones, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the

Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have

embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002423
MORENS_NIH_008939
REL0000479584

vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed

abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sun, 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 b6
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
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
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Roberts, Rich < b6 >
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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]>
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
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
[b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
[b6] [b6] [b6]
[b6]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
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_012669
MORENS_NIH_024057
REL0000479585

# 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_012670
MORENS_NIH_024058
REL0000479585

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.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 2:45:20 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 2:44:47 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Names of Committee members disclosed
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 Gerald Keusch b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Peter Hotez b6 Jeff Sturchio b6

Just returned from 3 weeks in Western Thailand near the Myanmar border organizing fieldwork in bat caves. It was hard work, made even harder by the ongoing level of harassment in the US. During that short trip we had to deal with the following attacks:

- A new lawsuit (our 3rd) claiming our work caused COVID and led to the death of a rock musician in a Midwest state in the USA
- A book from a former EHA employee that is so factually-incorrect, even the title is demonstrably wrong. The author, who sadly has some mental health issues (self-acknowledged and publicly stated) has been lauded by the usual Right wing hacks and did the rounds on Fox last week. He's getting his 15 mins of fame, but I'm a bit worried that a former Iraq/Afghanistan veteran with a grudge is drumming up hate against me and our organization.
- A series of harassing articles about me and EcoHealth in the Daily Mail, NY Post, Fox News, all based on a single tweet of some of our staff in Tyvek suits in a bat cave in Thailand, doing their job as scientists, and as laid out in our NIH grant.
- Quotes from Senator Joni Ernst & Roger Marshall bragging about how I'm not going to be able to do my work next year because I'll be spending so much time in front of Congress: 'Instead of playing in a bat cave, next year Daszak will find himself in front of Congress answering questions about his batty studies and what was really going on inside the Wuhan Institute,' added the Iowa Republican. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article- 11530565/GOP- senators-slam-Peter-Daszak-playing-bat-cave-Thailand.html
- Finally the letter from the Republicans on the House Oversight Committee demanding the usual trove of documents and emails, and on-the-record interviews with me and 5 of our staff. Amusingly that includes our collaborator in Australia Hume Field, who's a member of the Independent (former Lancet) Taskforce, and not a paid employee of EcoHealth. I'm not sure what jurisdiction Congress has over Australians who live in outback Queensland, but I can imagine his fruity answer if they asked him to testify…

I now know some very remote camps in the Myanmar-Thailand border region that are beginning to look like nice places to spend the next few months rather than sitting through the constant garbage these folks are generating……

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6 m>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014217
MORENS_NIH_026868
REL0000479586

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:56 AM
To: David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Peter Daszak < [b6]; Aleksei Chmura < [b6]; Peter Hotez [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: Names of Committee members disclosed

Ridiculous. But wait until the Republicans take control of the House. Then all hell will break loose. New Zealand is looking more attractive all the time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Gerald Keusch < [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] Aleksei Chmura < [b6]; Peter Hotez [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Jeff Sturchio < [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed

EXTERNAL SENDER

Now they are going after the line scientists. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
> **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:36:45 EST
> **To:** David Morens [b6]
> **Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
> > **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:31:56 EST
> > **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
> > **Subject: FW: Names of Committee members disclosed**

From: "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" b6
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 4:04 PM
To: "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" b6
Subject: Names of Committee members disclosed

Dear colleagues—

Congress has sent the attached letter to Secretary Becerra, and I wanted you to be aware since your names are specifically mentioned. The letter signatories have made this letter available to the media, and appeared on Fox today to discuss. This included a gross mischaracterization of the roles of the Committee members.

https://www.foxnews.com/video/6317195563112

I am very sorry that this has happened, esp. in such a way that so irresponsibly and incorrectly skews the actual facts and events. Please let me know if you experience any negative consequences as a result of this disclosure. I will let you know as we receive guidance on how to proceed.

Thank you for all you have done. As you well know, the work that we did together was thorough and responsible, and in no way related to the issue in question. I am proud of the work we did, and honored to be associated with each of you.

Chris
b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014219
MORENS_NIH_026870
REL0000479586

Date: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 1:09:12 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>

To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6]>;

CC: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Karen Goraleski [b6]>; Jacobson, Julie [b6] [b6]>; Stephen Popper [b6] christine- [b6] [b6] Dan Bausch [b6] [b6]>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6] [b6]>;

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Joel, and if the paper is only that, who should be authors/co-authors?

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
[b6] [b6] [b6] (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
[b6] [b6] [b6]
[b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]gov>
Cc: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [redacted] Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]>; Karen Goraleski [redacted] Jacobson, Julie [redacted] [redacted]>; Stephen Popper [redacted]>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Dan Bausch [redacted] [redacted]>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]>; Peter Daszak [redacted] [redacted]>; Rich Roberts [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Thanks, David.
I support review and importance of last topic-continuing research essential. Define what has been accomplished, key issues for future, and touch conditions in which field and lab work should be done.

Joel

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]> wrote:

Phil here are my thoughts…..

I feel that "we" need to arrive at a consensus of what to do. We could do something, as many have suggested, or nothing at this time, as several have urged.

That Charlie Calisher (who coauthored our article last year) has had second thoughts, suggests that ASTMH members don't have consensus on at least some issues. To me that suggests it would be difficult to write something/things that take an ASTMH position, although views of individual scientists within ASTMH should be fine.

Of several related things that might be written about singly or together are:

Man-made virus origin

Lab leak origin

Grant termination issues

Gain of function issues

Importance of continuing collaborative international research on sarbeco- and merbeco-virus

Last year's two papers covered the first 3 of the items above, and my sense is that we may not have unanimity on the first two of those. If we did a one year update we might have to do some finessing.

The third issue, grant termination, is something I would personally have difficulty doing since my boss, Tony, might take the heat, and I can't throw him under the bus, especially as he is working hard behind the scenes to undo the damage.

Gain of function is something that could be written about, but it is a bit tangential and in any case related to the man-made

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015779
MORENS_NIH_033478
REL0000479596

virus issue.

The issue of the importance of continuing sarbeco research is the easiest life, and if the focus was on that it would perhaps be possible to slip in a side dish of the unlikelihood of the first 2 issues, and perhaps the others as well.

I think that if we do tackle the first two subjects it will be a problem representing the Society. In my view, it would ideally be a paper by scientists themselves, not the Society as a whole.

The one year follow up, which I and several others have raised, would have to be such a paper, but several of us on this email have advised against doing even that.

So, where are we?

I look to the leadership, you Phil, Presidents past present and future, Karen, and other leaders to help steer this forward.

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

From: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6 >; Karen Goraleski < b6 >; Jacobson, Julie (b6 >; Stephen Popper < b6 b6 Dan Bausch (b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 < b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

David, Jerry, et al,

I'm fully supportive of a follow-up article in the AJTMH on COVID origins. The sooner the better. I suggest working, despite the craziness, on a fully reasoned and rational discussion, admitting uncertainty, but not implying that uncertainty supports a possibility with no scientific support. After the long, thoughtful piece last year, we might go with a short editorial format (~1000 words) this year, but alternatively this piece could again be a longer Perspective if this seems appropriate. I'm happy to help with writing if desired, but of course I'm not an expert in this area, and we have many experts involved.

Regards,
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <b6>; Karen Goraleski <b6>; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <b6>; Jacobson, Julie b6 b6; Stephen Popper b6 b6 b6; Dan Bausch (b6) b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 gov >; Peter Daszak (b6) b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Jerry, i think that's a good idea. I floated the thought of something similar a few days ago

Let's hear again from Karen, Phil, Julie, Joel, Dan Christine and the others. This is doable altho the details are to be determined. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 4, 2021, at 17:08, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6; Karen Goraleski < b6
Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 >; Jacobson, Julie (b6 Stephen Popper < b6 ; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] < b6 ; Dan Bausch (
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Peter Daszak (

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015781
MORENS_NIH_033480
REL0000479596

b6 ; Rich Roberts b6 <
b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Dear ASTMH colleagues,

As of today, shockingly, our own Charlie Calisher, who has been involved in so-called GOF research, and who coauthored last year's ASTMH paper, and who has been an esteemed colleague of mine for 45+ years, told the press in two separate interviews that he now thinks the lab leak theory is possible. Peter Palese, an esteemed researcher who has done and been accused of GOF research today said the same. I am very depressed by this, as I know these men and their scientific creds and their integrity.

What is going on?

Possibility no. 1: I am totally crazy and the whole world is a conspiracy that I am blind to.

Possibility no. 2: this is a McCarthy-era witch hunt story and good people are being drawn into it from fear, moral confusion, or a weak inability to evaluate scientific evidence I (I rather hope it's not the latter)….

Before deciding on which of these two, I would recommend seeing the play, or more conveniently and quickly the movie made from it, of Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era classic "The Crucible". I went through all of this as a kid. This whole thing is to me déjà vu all over again.

I don't know what, if anything, ASTMH can or should do, but let us at least agree that this is one of the most dangerous attacks on science in memory.

Surely we should have a voice in some sphere.

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
-
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

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

<image003.jpg>
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015783
MORENS_NIH_033482
REL0000479596

He worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli as they investigated and modified coronaviruses. Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves.

Dr Daszak was one four Brits to sign the letter, including SAGE advisor Sir Jeremy Farrar and two other experts working for the Welcome Trust at the time. The letters' signatories included four others who worked for EcoHealth.

Jamie Metzl, who sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and is a form Bill Clinton administration staffer, said Dr Daszak's letter was a 'form of thuggery'.

He said: 'The Lancet letter was scientific propaganda and a form of thuggery and intimidation.

'By labeling anyone with different views a conspiracy theorist, the Lancet letter was the worst form of bullying in full contravention of the scientific method.'

MailOnline has approached the letters' other signatories for comment.

A Freedom of Information Act request revealed Dr Daszak told his fellow signatories in an email that the letter would not be sent under the EcoHealth logo 'and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization of person'.

The emails show he even considered not signing the letter himself, although in the end he did.

The idea, he said was for it to be coming from 'a community supporting our colleagues'.

The letter — titled 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting Covid-19' — praised the Chinese 'who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak'.

It went on to add: 'We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.

'Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumors and prejudices that jeopardize our global collaboration in the fight against the virus.'

It ended with the words: 'We declare no competing interests.'

The letter proved so influential that it virtually ended debate on the origin of Covid for more than a year.

Anyone who suggested it could have been man-made was shot down amid accusations of anti-Chinese xenophobia.

Robert Redfield, the former director of the Centers for Disease Control told Vanity Fair he received death threats after floating the theory that the virus could have been man-made.

He said: 'I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis. I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science.'

Dr Peter Daszak, 55, from Manchester, orchestrated a behind-the-scenes 'bullying' campaign to ensure blame for Covid was directed away from a Chinese lab with which he had worked closely.

Dr Daszack worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli (pictured left) as they investigated and modified coronaviruses. Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves

The theory the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was originally dismissed by left-leaning media outlets last year as a conspiracy theory after it was mentioned by then-President Donald Trump.

But they have now changed course with the launch of the US investigation.

Liberal US outlets, who slammed Mr Trump when he said a year ago said he had 'a high degree of confidence' that the virus escaped from a lab, have finally conceded that he may have been right — after a year ridiculing the suggestion.

Who signed the letter in The Lancet?

- Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Charles Calisher, Colorado State University
- Dennis Carroll, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Texas
- Rita Colwell, University of Maryland
- Ronald Corley, NEIDL Institute, Boston
- Christian Drosten, Charité – Universitatsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Luis Enjuanes, National Center of Biotechnology, Madrid
- Jeremy Farrar, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Hume Field, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Josie Golding, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Alexander Gorbalenya, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands
- Bart Haagmans, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- James Hughes, Emory University, Atlanta
- William Karesh, EcoHealth Alliance, New York

- Gerald Keusch, Boston University
- Sai Kit Lam, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Juan Lubroth, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy
- John Mackenzie, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
- Larry Madoff, Massachusetts Medical School
- Jonna Mazet, University of California at Davis
- Peter Palese, Icahn School of Medicine, New York
- Stanley Perlman, University of Iowa
- Leo Poon, The University of Hong Kong
- Bernard Roizman, University of Chicago
- Linda Saif, The Ohio State University
- Kanta Subbarao, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Mike Turner, The Wellcome Trust, London

The lab-leak theory was bolstered last week after it was revealed three workers at the Wuhan lab were hospitalized in November, 2019, months before Covid was first discovered in China.

China claims the virus was transmitted to humans from an animal host, with bats and pangolins both named as potential sources. Many scientists agree that is the most likely theory.

Professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge Ravi Gupta, a member of Nervtag, said the theory has not yet been investigated with 'scientific rigor'.

He told **The Telegraph**: 'The possibility was not adequately explored due to lack of access to primary records by the WHO group. Lab leak has not been scientifically rejected as a cause using [the] scientific rigor that one would expect.'

A soon to be published report by a team of British and Norwegian experts suggests it is possible to trace the creation of the virus to research in China that began in 2008.

Professor David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, said the theory needs to be investigated by an international consortium of scientists in collaboration with the UN.

He said: 'Ideally, an investigation would rely on an international consortium of scientists under the auspices of many national academies of science working in partnership, in collaboration with an international governance entity, the UN Secretary General's Office, or something of that sort.'

And Harvard epidemiologist Professor Marc Lipsitch said a lab escape scenario 'remains plausible enough that it should be looked into rigorously'.

He told the paper: 'This is not a fringe position, given that multiple European governments and Dr Tedros have said the same.'

He said that while scientists are not saying a lab origin is more likely than a natural one, a thorough investigation is needed to reveal the cause of the pandemic.

As Dr Daszak's links to the Wuhan lab become clearer, more questions are being asked about his influence over the WHO team that went to China in January and stayed for four weeks searching for answers.

The team was met with resistance in China. Authorities there made them quarantine for two weeks in Wuhan and barred two members completely after they tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.

But critics say the WHO researchers were too cozy with Chinese authorities, who are desperate not to shoulder the blame for a worldwide death toll now approaching 3.6 million.

They claim its members may have been influenced by a tour they took round a 'propaganda museum' which described Wuhan's fight against the virus and the leading role taken by President Xi Jinping.

While China has tried to insist the virus originated elsewhere, academics, politicians and the media have begun to contemplate the possibility it escaped from the WIV - raising suspicions that Chinese officials simply hid evidence of the early spread

The Wuhan Institute of Virology is about 20 miles from the Huanan Seafood Market where the first coronavirus cases are reported to have occurred

In recent weeks, the lab-escape theory has gained ground. Already British intelligence officials, who are helping the US search for the cause of the pandemic that has cost nearly 600,000 American lives, are said to be leaning towards the man-made scenario.

Last week MailOnline revealed two leading scientists had found 'unique fingerprints' in Covid samples that could only have come from lab manipulation.

British Professor Angus Dalgleish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sørensen, wrote that they have had 'prima facie evidence of retro-engineering in China' for a year — but were ignored by academics and major journals.

Did Covid originate in Chinese lab?

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been collecting numerous coronaviruses from bats ever since the SARS outbreak in 2002.

They have also published papers describing how these bat viruses have interacted with human cells.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015785
MORENS_NIH_033484
REL0000479596

US Embassy staff visited the lab in 2018 and 'had grave safety concerns' over the protocols which were being observed at the facility.
The lab is just eight miles from the Huanan wet market which is where the first cluster of infections erupted in Wuhan.
The market is just a few hundred yards from another lab called the Wuhan Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (WHCDC).
The WHCDC kept disease-ridden animals in its labs, including some 605 bats.
Those who support the theory argue that Covid-19 could have leaked from either or both of these facilities and spread to the wet market.
Most argue that this would have been a virus they were studying rather than one which was engineered.
Last year a bombshell paper from the Beijing-sponsored South China University of Technology recounted how bats once attacked a researcher at the WHCDC and 'blood of bat was on his skin.'
The report says: 'Genome sequences from patients were 96% or 89% identical to the Bat CoV ZC45 coronavirus originally found in Rhinolophus affinis (intermediate horseshoe bat).'
It describes how the only native bats are found around 600 miles away from the Wuhan seafood market and that the probability of bats flying from Yunnan and Zhejiang provinces was minimal.
In addition there is little to suggest the local populace eat the bats as evidenced by testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors.
Instead the authors point to research being carried out within 300 yards at the WHCDC.
One of the researchers at the WHCDC described quarantining himself for two weeks after a bat's blood got on his skin, according to the report. That same man also quarantined himself after a bat urinated on him.
And he also mentions discovering a live tick from a bat - parasites known for their ability to pass infections through a host animal's blood.
'The WHCDC was also adjacent to the Union Hospital (Figure 1, bottom) where the first group of doctors were infected during this epidemic.' The report says.
'It is plausible that the virus leaked around and some of them contaminated the initial patients in this epidemic, though solid proofs are needed in future study.'
Professor Dalgleish, 71, a vaccine researcher and professor of oncology at St George's Hospital, last year struggled to find a publisher for his paper suggesting the virus's spike protein contains artificially inserted sequences.
He said the research was shunned by the scientific community, who did not want to threaten China or be seen to be agreeing with President Donald Trump — who was a big advocate for the theory the virus was leaked from a lab at the time.
The oncologist said: 'The changes required to infect humans are extremely unlikely to have occurred naturally.'
Professor Dalgleish — who ran for Parliament as a UKIP candidate in 2015 — said the President's use of the terms 'Wuhan flu' and 'China virus' damaged scientific debate on the subject.
He told **The Times**: 'I was basically ostracized. I was fearful — really frightened by the way I was being treated. I was told I was not an expert on coronaviruses and I should just shut up.
'We couldn't believe people with whom we'd collaborated and published papers with in the past would shun us — I was warned I was out of my depth and I shouldn't get into this and I'd make a fool of myself.'
And just last week President Joe Biden ordered another look at the theory as part of a wide-ranging intelligence investigation into the pandemic's origins. He felt it so urgent that he put a 90-day deadline for a conclusion.
Emails from Dr Anthony Fauci, Mr Biden's chief medical advisor, show that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.
Fauci says those emails, obtained by Buzzfeed, have been taken out of context.
But he did U-turn about where the virus may have originated this week, saying 'you never know'.
One of them was from Dr Daszak, who thanked Dr Fauci for pushing back on the man-made theory.
In April, Dr Drazak wrote: 'I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for Covid-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Even WHO's Ethiopian director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the report was not extensive enough and more work needed to be done to discover the cause of Covid.
'As far as WHO is concerned, all hypotheses remain on the table,' he said.
'This report is a very important beginning, but it is not the end.'
America is looking at the theory seriously, leading to China hitting out at the 'dark history' of the US intelligence community after President Biden's probe was announced.
Lijian Zhao, foreign ministry spokesman who has been Beijing's point-man in trying to pin blame for the pandemic outside the country's borders, accused the US of trying to shift blame away from its own high Covid case and death counts - and suggested security services may be involved in a cover-up.
Meanwhile Hu Xijin, editor of the state mouthpiece Global Times newspaper, accused Biden of trying to discredit

a WHO investigation which concluded that a lab leak is 'unlikely' — although critics have previously blasted that report as a China-centric whitewash.
China's American embassy also hit out, accusing Biden and his security services of being 'fixated on political manipulation and (the) blame game' in a statement on its website.
No10 officials have called for investigators to probe all theories as to how the Covid pandemic began.
Dominic Cummings this week revealed the PM held meetings when the crisis first began to discuss whether it had 'escaped' from a laboratory and whether the disease had been 'engineered'.

The Lancet letter in full: 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19'

We are public health scientists who have closely followed the emergence of 2019 novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and are deeply concerned about its impact on global health and wellbeing.
We have watched as the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China, in particular, have worked diligently and effectively to rapidly identify the pathogen behind this outbreak, put in place significant measures to reduce its impact, and share their results transparently with the global health community. This effort has been remarkable.
We sign this statement in solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak.
We are all in this together, with our Chinese counterparts in the forefront, against this new viral threat.
The rapid, open, and transparent sharing of data on this outbreak is now being threatened by rumours and misinformation around its origins.
We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
Scientists from multiple countries have published and analysed genomes of the causative agent, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and they overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife, as have so many other emerging pathogens.
This is further supported by a letter from the presidents of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and by the scientific communities they represent.
Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumours, and prejudice that jeopardise our global collaboration in the fight against this virus.
We support the call from the Director-General of WHO to promote scientific evidence and unity over misinformation and conjecture.
We want you, the science and health professionals of China, to know that we stand with you in your fight against this virus.
We invite others to join us in supporting the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of Wuhan and across China. Stand with our colleagues on the frontline!
We speak in one voice. To add your support for this statement, sign our letter online. LM is editor of ProMED-mail. We declare no competing interests.

Sen. Rand Paul says Fauci's emails paint a 'disturbing picture' about what he knew about work inside the Wuhan lab

Sen. **Rand Paul** continued his blitz on Dr. **Anthony Fauci** in the wake of Fauci's email dump, telling Fox that Fauci knew the US was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan even though he continues to deny it.
The Republican from **Kentucky** told Fox Thursday night that Fauci's emails 'tell me early on that he was very worried' before the pandemic even started.
'There's a disturbing picture. He gets an email or he gets notification of what's going on in Wuhan and immediately sends something to his assistant saying, "We must meet immediately." And in the subject line it says gain of function research in Wuhan.'
While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.
The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.
'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.
Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.
Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.
In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'

He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'
This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.
The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'
Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.
During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'
Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'
'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.
Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'
Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.
Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.
Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.
Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.
During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.
Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.
'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.
The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.
Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.
British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 12:10:48 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 12:10:39 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6
CC: Robert Kessler b6 >;

Hi:

Letter sent to Harold, Tony, Eric, Francis and a staff member of Senator Ed. Markey.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Robert Kessler b6
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.

If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
To: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Robert Kessler b6
Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,

Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.

We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.

If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)' [b6]>; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)' < [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio ([b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010782
MORENS_NIH_021334
REL0000479605

organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.

We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) [b6] >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) < b6
Cc: Dennis Carroll < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 g >; Robert Kessler < b6
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.

Thanks for making time!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) b6
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) < b6 gov >
Cc: Dennis Carroll b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6 >
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 < b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) < b6
Cc: Dennis Carroll b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 g >; Robert Kessler < b6 >
Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
Importance: High

Dear Brooke,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.

As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!

You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.

I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:39 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:07:36 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:32 AM
Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T b6 >, Roberts, Rich b6 >, David Morens b6 >

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfcc333fac30046eedcfa08db8a0d2005%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=NISQodMO%2FmQcfBlihq1QAGsosXi7i1eJHybpqmxiYOc%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter- J.-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfcc333fac30046eedcfa08db8a0d2005%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=N31UuW1Lg4hUAcObhLdHHtmY82ZxTaNf%2Ftna5MSRAyI%3D &reserved=0

Daily Beast Contributor
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfcc333fac30046eedcfa08db8a0d2005%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=fd7p%2FoTy7yLEZ4F0gXxJo2xPa36m%2FPYgBMDR9e78Jqw%3D &reserved=0

Like us on Facebook

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfcc333fac30046eedcfa08db8a0d2005%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=lKEJU0Dbou9Np1iereCMMnbObZWckGqPYB02%2Bi3Ji6w%3D &reserved=0

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gao.gov%2Fproducts%2Fgao-22-104613
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfcc333fac30046eedcfa08db8a0d2005%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=Hw0rfus0BzWiR%2BgPbQZw4tMpRy%2Bk9CUWb0rofHlgnjQ%3D &reserved=0

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfcc333fac30046eedcfa08db8a0d2005%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=NISQodMO%2FmQcfBlihq1QAGsosXi7i1eJHybpqmxiYOc%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: b6
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to

share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date:	Sun, 24 Oct 2021 11:56:54 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 24 Oct 2021 11:55:01 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments:	01 Tabak to Comer Letter.pdf; 02 eRA Commons Year 4 Report Submission Date.pdf; 03 Daszak to Stemmy Email.pdf; 04 Rationale for recombinant virus experiments.pdf; 05 eRA Commons Year 5 Report Submission Date.pdf; 06 SADS and HKU2 data and analyses.pdf; 07 Southeast Asia SARSr-CoV Spillover hotspots analysis.pdf; 08 IACUC & IIAs.pdf; Response to Dr. Lauer October 2021 DRAFT.docx

Hi Jerry and David,

I know it's expecting a lot, but I'm trying to rapidly respond to Michael Lauer's letter demanding IACUCs and all unpublished data, as well as to Tabak's public statement that EcoHealth failed to comply with reporting restrictions.

Please have a look through this letter, and use track changes or comment boxes to suggest where the language needs to be stronger or more wimpy. I'm trying to walk the line between clearly refuting the allegations, and not throwing NIAID program staff under the bus.

I'm hoping to submit this either Monday evening or Tuesday, ahead of the deadline, so we can remove ourselves from the press attacks quickly, and tell people publicly that we complied with reporting requirements.

David – I'll send some bullets for you to pass on to Tony later on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 2:02:20 PM -0400

Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 2:02:16 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]>

To: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>;

CC: David Morens [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

Sorry. Not for me.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

Would today at 4:30 pm CDT/ 5:30 pm EDT work for you?

All the best,

Douglas Soriano

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support to **Peter Hotez,** MD, Ph.D., DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
National School of Tropical Medicine | Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Soriano Osejo, Douglas <Doug[b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6] David Morens <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Hi Peter, that is useful. I know Barry (he tried to recruit me back to Sinai when he was Chief of Medicine), and the NEIDL has one of Charlie Rice's PhD student on faculty now. So very useful.

I'm sending out a link for a Zoom call tomorrow at 3:15. I will have 45 minutes (I can try to delay the 4 pm call a bit) but there is no constraint for you to continue talking beyond that if useful.
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6]; David Morens [b6] Jeff Sturchio <[b6]
Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Cc'ng Douglas Soriano to determine availability. Fyi I spoke on science and scientists under attack for my Rockefeller Univ lecture last night for their "Insight Series". People like Rick Lifton, Barry Coller, Charlie Rice, Jeff Friedman are all in, in case that's useful.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 13, 2022, at 10:37 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> wrote:

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 <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Roberts, Rich <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; David Morens <b6>

Jeff Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

I spoke with Richard Lifton, Charlie Rice, Michel Nussenzweig, Jeff Friedman, Cory Bargmann today about this at my Rockefeller Univ visit. They are starting to get it. In the meantime, maybe we should express our concerns to Victor?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 4:52 PM, Peter Daszak b6 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007464
MORENS_NIH_016717
REL0000479611

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: b6
Cc: Kim, Se < b6
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

---

recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 1:34:47 AM -0400

Sent: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 1:34:46 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd:Origins briefing by Science

From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" [b6] >

To: [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6]

This *will* be interesting. G'luck, Linfa and Mike!

From: Michelle Cortez (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 09/27/21 15:20:09 UTC+10:00
To: Emma O'Brien (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Dong Lyu (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Drew Armstrong (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Timothy Annett (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Subject: Origins briefing by Science

This is interesting:
***Science* Facebook Live—Lab leak or natural origin? Scientists discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic began:**

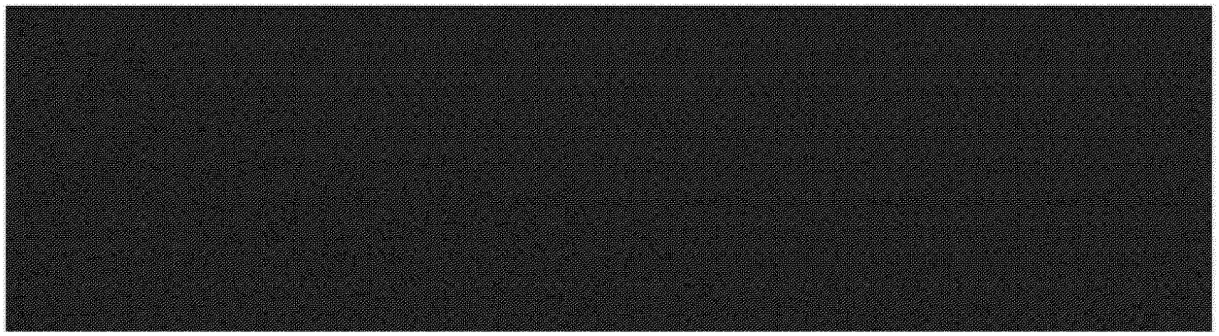
On Thursday 30 September at 9 am US EDT (1 pm GMT), *Science* will host a one-hour Facebook livestream session with experts who will discuss the origins of COVID-19. Science senior correspondent Jon Cohen, author of a recent related news feature in *Science*, will moderate the session. Panelists will include Alina Chan, Jesse Bloom, Michael Worobey and Linfa Wang. A Q&A session will take place during the last 15 minutes of the event.

Please click the following link to join the event live at 9 am US EDT (1 pm GMT) on Thursday 9/30: https://www.facebook.com/ScienceMagazine/posts/1015903491913558 .

(Attendees are welcome to submit questions at this link in advance. For those unable to attend, a recording will be available later on Facebook and other *Science* platforms.)

From: [b6] At: 09/27/21 07:01:41 UTC+8:00
To: Michelle Cortez (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Subject: Science Press Package for 1 October



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010786
MORENS_NIH_021342
REL0000479612

Press Package

26 September 2021

In the 1 October issue of *Science*...

- Editorial: Time to Unfriend Facebook?
- Climate Change More Severely Threatens Young Generations Than Older Generations
- Analyzing Protein Interaction Networks Reveals Previously Unknown Cancer Drivers
- Achieving Plastics with Net-Zero Emissions
- Active-Learning Approaches Support More Effective Learning and Development *free*
- Chronic Carriers of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Enable Persistence in Host African Buffalo Populations
- Getting a Handle on the Climate Influences of Decadal Changes in the Tropical Pacific
- Science Facebook Live—Lab Leak or Natural Origin? Scientists Discuss How the COVID-19 Pandemic Began

This edition of the Science Press Package was produced by:

- Walter Beckwith
- Meagan Phelan

Science Family of Journals / AAAS
Phone: +1-202-326-6777
E-mail: scipak@aaas.org

Meagan Phelan
Phone: +1-202-326-6436
E-mail: mphelan@aaas.org

Please cite the "journal Science" and the publisher, AAAS, the science society, as the source of this information. Please link to science.sciencemag.org when publishing online.

***Science* Facebook Live—Lab leak or natural origin? Scientists discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic began:**
On Thursday 30 September at 9 am US EDT (1 pm GMT), *Science* will host a one-hour Facebook livestream session with experts who will discuss the origins of COVID-19. Science senior

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010787
MORENS_NIH_021343
REL0000479612

correspondent Jon Cohen, author of a , will moderate the session. Panelists will include Alina Chan, Jesse Bloom, Michael Worobey and Linfa Wang. A Q&A session will take place during the last 15 minutes of the event.
Please click the following link to join the event live at 9 am US EDT (1 pm GMT) on Thursday 9/30:
.

(Attendees are welcome to submit questions at this link in advance. For those unable to attend, a recording will be available later on Facebook and other *Science* platforms.)

To View Press Pack Online:
Reporters can view embargoed content at the new EurekAlert! *Science* Press Package Portal at the following link **once logged in** to a EurekAlert! reporter account:

Note: No Spanish-language translations will be available in October, November or December 2021. During this time, select Japanese-language and Chinese-language translations will be available.

EMBARGOED: 26-Sep-2021 23:00 ET (26-Sep-2021 17:00 GMT/UTC)

Climate change more severely threatens young generations than older generations

Science

Babies born in 2020 worldwide could expect to experience 2-7 times more extreme climate events – including heat waves, wildfires, crop failures, droughts, floods and tropical storms – under current global climate policy pledges than someone born in 1960, report Wim Thiery and colleagues in a Policy Forum. The findings provide a scientific perspective on intergenerational climate inequalities and underscore the challenges younger generations face due to inadequate climate action. "Our results highlight a severe threat to the safety of young generations and call for drastic emission reductions to safeguard their future," write the authors. Under ongoing climate change, extreme climate events are expected to become more pronounced and occur more frequently over the next decades. As such, younger generations will likely live through far more of these events throughout their lives compared to older generations. This impending reality has fueled a surge of climate protests and litigation led by young people worldwide. However, these positions lack a comprehensive scientific perspective as current climate change assessments fail to quantify differences in lifetime exposure to climate change effects across generations. Here, Thiery et al. present a novel intergenerational analysis designed to predict impacts as they are experienced over a person's lifetime. The analysis combines data from a collection of extreme climate event projections, global population data and data on future global temperature trajectories from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming. While the authors found that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius reduces the burden of younger generations, these generations will still experience unprecedented and unavoidable impacts unmatched by those experienced by older generations, particularly in low-income countries with rapidly growing young populations. The impacts under the current climate trajectories are far more grim.

Related Article Access Instructions:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010788
MORENS_NIH_021344
REL0000479612

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abi7339

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abi7339

Article #abi7339: "Intergenerational inequities in extreme event exposure" by Wim Thiery, Lukas Gudmundsson, Sonia I. Seneviratne, David N. Bresch, Stefan Lange, Katja Frieler, Tobias Geiger, Fang Zhao, Sven N. Willner, Matthias Büchner, Jan Volkholz, Nico Bauer, Jonas Jägermeyr, Matthias Mengel, Christoph Müller, Sebastian Ostberg, Christopher P. O. Reyer, Joeri Rogelj, Nikolay Khabarov, Wolfgang Lutz, Yoshihide Wada, Carl-Friedrich Schleussner, Marina Andrijevic, Kerry Emanuel, Jinfeng Chang, Philippe Ciais, Wenfeng Liu, Marie Dury, Louis François, Manolis Grillakis, Simon N. Gosling, Naota Hanasaki, Akihiko Ito, Thomas Hickler, Veronika Huber, Aristeidis Koutroulis, Tobias Stacke.

Contact: Wim Thiery - Wim.Thiery@vub.be(email) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel/ETH Zurich.

DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abi7339

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Editorial: Time to unfriend Facebook?

Science

Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abm5515

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm5515

Article #abm5515: "Time to unfriend Facebook?" by H. Holden Thorp.

Contact: H. Holden Thorp - hthorp@aaas.org(email) at AAAS/Science Journals.

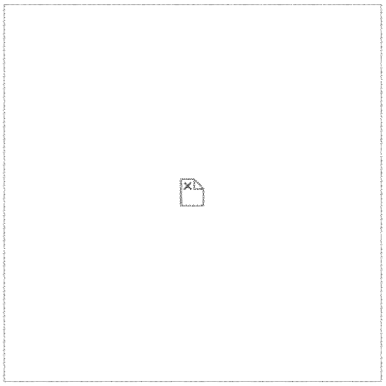
DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abm5515

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Analyzing protein interaction networks reveals previously unknown cancer drivers

Science

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010789
MORENS_NIH_021345
REL0000479612



In three studies from the Cancer Cell Map Initiative, researchers uncovered previously unknown interactions between proteins that drive cancer and combined this new data to generate a map of protein pathways informing cancer outcomes. Their approach offers a framework that could improve scientists' understanding of cancer progression and aid in identifying therapeutic targets. For many cancers, which are genetic diseases, there is an extensive catalog of genetic mutations. But a consolidated map that organizes these mutations into pathways that drive tumor growth is missing. "A clearer picture would emerge if mechanisms critical for tumor growth were better consolidated into specific pathways," write Ran Cheng and Peter K. Jackson, in a related Perspective. "Identifying and consolidating these pathways and identifying how combinations of pathways drive cancer will simplify our search for effective cancer therapies." Protein-protein interaction (PPI) networks are important tools in this effort because they extend beyond gene lists to define the protein biochemistry of tumor pathways and druggable targets. Danielle Swaney et al. studied protein-protein interaction data in head and neck squamous cells. They report that these cancer lines showed hundreds of distinct interactions compared with both noncancerous lines and with each other. Interactions with the PI3K pathway – commonly mutated in tumors – were predictive of drug response, Swaney and colleagues reported. Minkyu Kim et al. focused on breast cancer and identified two proteins connected to the tumor suppressor gene BRCA1, as well as two proteins that regulate PIK3CA. Fan Zheng et al. combined the new PPI data from Swaney et al. and Kim et al. with existing public data to generate a map of protein pathways that they used to reveal previously hard-to-detect mutations potentially important in tumor metastasis. The studies provide a resource that will be helpful in interpreting cancer genomic data.

Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abf2911
This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abf2911

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abf3066
This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abf3066

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abf3067
This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abf3067

Related Perspective available: **Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abl9080**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010790
MORENS_NIH_021346
REL0000479612

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abl9080

Article #abf2911: "A protein network map of head and neck cancer reveals PIK3CA mutant drug sensitivity" by Nevan Krogan, Margaret Soucheray, Kyumin Kim, Rachel O'Keefe, Mehdi Bouhaddou, Minkyu Kim, Natalia Jura, Danielle L. Swaney, Neil Bhola, Yan Zeng, Michael McGregor, Kari A. Herrington, Nan Jin, Nathan K. VanLandingham, Helene Foussard, John Von Dollen, David Jimenez-Morales, Kirsten Obernier, Daniel E. Johnson, Jennifer R. Grandis, Dana Ramms, Fan Zheng, Jason Kreisberg, Trey Ideker, Zhiyong Wang, Jisoo Park, Yusuke Goto, J. Silvio Gutkind.

Contact: Nevan Krogan - nevan.krogan@ucsf.edu(email), 1-415-310-4524(office phone) at University of California San Francisco/J. David Gladstone Institutes/The Cancer Cell Map Initiative. Trey Ideker - tideker@ucsd.edu(email) at The Cancer Cell Map Initiative/University of California San Diego. Ran Cheng - rancheng@stanford.edu(email) at Stanford University School of Medicine.

DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abf2911

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Achieving plastics with net-zero emissions

Science

Combining "circular" technologies including recycling, biomass processing, and carbon dioxide capture could offer a way to produce plastics with net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to a new study. The production of plastics – one of the most ubiquitous human-made materials – currently accounts for 6% of global oil consumption and is expected to rise to nearly 20% within the next 30 years. Thus, to meet global climate targets, achieving net-zero GHG in the plastics economy is critically important. Proposed strategies to mitigate GHG in the lifecycle of plastics include decarbonization of the plastics supply chain and the implementation of circular technologies that reuse fossil carbon feedstock, such as chemical and mechanical recycling, biomass utilization, and carbon capture and utilization (CCU). However, while a great deal of research has focused on finding more sustainable building blocks for next-generation plastics, mitigating the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of current-generation plastics using circular technologies is often perceived as being energy-intensive and costly. Here, Raoul Meys and colleagues present a bottom-up model for plastics production and waste treatment based on more than 400 technology datasets representing the lifecycle of more than 90% of global plastics. Using this model, Meys et al. project five different pathways for lifecycle GHG emissions of plastics in the year 2050. The findings show that by combining recycling, biomass utilization, and CCU, net-zero GHG emission plastics could be achieved with lower energy demands and lower operational costs than those associated with current fossil-fuel based production technologies combined with carbon capture and storage. According to the authors, realizing the full cost-saving potential of $288 billion requires a low-cost supply of renewable biomass and CO2, a high-cost supply of oil, and policies that incentivize large-scale recycling

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010791
MORENS_NIH_021347
REL0000479612

and lower investment barriers for technologies that use renewable carbon feedstock.

Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abg9853

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abg9853

Article #abg9853: "Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emission plastics by a circular carbon economy" by Raoul Meys, Arne Kätelhön, Marvin Bachmann, Benedikt Winter, Christian Zibunas, Sangwon Suh, Andre Bardow.

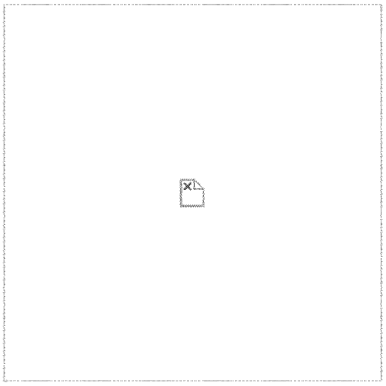
Contact: Raoul Meys - raoul.meys@ltt.rwth-aachen.de(email) at RWTH Aachen University/Carbon Minds GmbH.
Andre Bardow - abardow@ethz.ch(email) at RWTH Aachen University/ETH Zürich/Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH.

DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abg9853

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Active-learning approaches support more effective learning and development

Science



The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in widespread disruptions to traditional schooling and has led to renewed interest in evaluating the best and most effective approaches to teaching and learning. In a series of vignettes, education experts describe the growing bodies of research that demonstrate the benefits of "active learning," which puts students more in the driver's seat through discussions, interactive technologies, and other strategies to engage learners and deepen understanding. Use of these approaches shows that they can not only lead to cognitive benefits and academic success, but also socioemotional support, particularly for students challenged by traditional passive learning approaches. Research also suggests that such approaches promote better comprehension and memory. Here, education researchers and experts weigh in on novel methods that support active learning in classrooms from pre-school to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010792
MORENS_NIH_021348
REL0000479612

college and beyond, including in the community. Examples include a transformed bus stop in West Philadelphia designed to spark parent-child interactions, which are known to promote better language skills; efforts to guide children into less-structured activities, shown to improve executive function; and physically active learning, which can support the ability of students to model the world and discover patterns.

Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abj9957

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj9957

Article #abj9957: "Active learning: 'Hands-on' meets 'minds-on'" by Nesra Yannier, Scott Hudson, Kenneth Koedinger, Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Yuko Munakata, Sabine Doebel, Daniel L. Schwartz, Louis Deslauriers, Logan McCarty, Kristina Callaghan, Elli Theobald, Scott Freeman, Katelyn Cooper, Sara E. Brownell.

Contact: Nesra Yannier - (b) (6) (email), 1 b6 (office phone) at Carnegie Mellon University.
Kathy Hirsh-Pasek - (b) (6) (email), b6 (office phone) at Temple University/Brookings Institution.
Yuko Munakata - (b) (6) (email) at University of California, Davis.
Louis Deslauriers - (b) (6) email), b6 phone) at Harvard University.
Elli J. Theobald - (b) (6) email), b6 phone) at University of Washington.
Katelyn M. Cooper - (b) (6) u(email), b6 phone) at Arizona State University.
Daniel L. Schwartz - please contact Brooke Donald - (b) (6) (email), 1- b6 phone) at Stanford University.

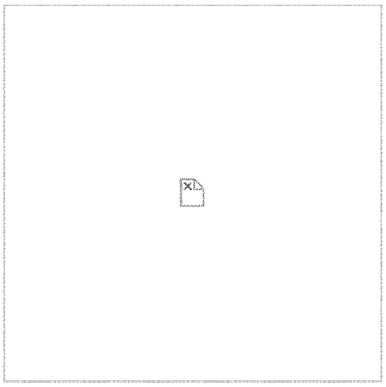
DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abj9957

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Chronic carriers of foot-and-mouth disease enable persistence in host African buffalo populations

Science

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010793
MORENS_NIH_021349
REL0000479612



Sporadic transmission from animals persistently infected with foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) can allow the highly contagious pathogen to persist in African buffalo populations, a new study finds. Outbreaks of highly contagious pathogens can be difficult to predict and their potential for explosive spread throughout a population can turn relatively localized transmission events into widespread and difficult to control epidemic emergencies quickly. However, after such rapid spread throughout a host population, aggressive infections are expected to fade out as herd immunity develops and the viral pathogens outstrip their supply of susceptible hosts. Nevertheless, some pathogens, like FMDV – one of the most contagious groups of animal viruses – persist endemically in some host populations and re-emerge sporadically. The mechanisms that enable this persistence in relatively small or isolated reservoir animal populations remain poorly understood yet fundamental to predicting and preventing outbreaks. In Sub-Saharan Africa, FMDV is endemic in African buffalo, which serve as a reservoir for disease in domestic livestock, including cattle, sheep and goats. In this region, FMDV is responsible for more than $2 billion in food production losses each year. Through a combination of experimental and theoretical approaches, Anna Jolles and colleagues examined how FMDV persists in the African buffalo and found that it does so through inconspicuous, rare and sporadic transmission between persistently infected carriers, which reliably rescues the most infectious viral strain currently circulating from fade-out. Jolles et al. also note that other mechanisms, such as antigenic shift, loss of immunity and the seasonal birth of susceptible populations may also play important roles in the persistence of less transmissible strains. "Jolles et al. have unraveled key complexities to FMDV persistence in small buffalo populations; the time is now ripe for understanding the full spectrum of strategies for persistence of this virus across the continent," write Katie Hampson and Daniel Haydon in a related Perspective.

Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abd2475
This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abd2475

Related Perspective available: **Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abl8885**
This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abl8885

Article #abd2475: "Endemic persistence of a highly contagious pathogen: Foot-and-mouth disease in its wildlife host" by Anna Jolles, Erin Gorsich, Simon Gubbins, Brianna Beechler, Peter Buss, Nick Juleff, Lin-Mari de Klerk-Lorist, Francois Maree, Eva Perez-Martin, Ockert van

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010794
MORENS_NIH_021350
REL0000479612

Schalkwyk, Katherine Scott, Fuquan Zhang, Jan Medlock, Bryan Charleston.

Contact: Anna Jolles - (b) (6) n(email) at Oregon State University. Katie Hampson (b) (6) email), b6 (office phone) at University of Glasgow.

DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abd2475

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Getting a handle on the climate influences of decadal changes in the tropical Pacific

Science

Climate variability in the tropical Pacific affects global climate, and decadal changes in this region, referred to collectively as tropical Pacific decadal variability (TPDV), are especially influential. Major international efforts are now under way to provide decadal climate predictions to help decision-makers plan for the coming years and decades. The enormous challenges faced by these groups demand a better understanding of the mechanisms of TPDV. In this Review, Scott Power and colleagues synthesize our current understanding of TPDV. They assess a wide and diverse array of evidence—including historical records, instrumental and paleoclimate observations, mathematical models of Earth's climate, and decadal prediction systems—to evaluate the degree of confidence that we have in proposed mechanisms of TPDV and the extent to which those processes provide a degree of predictability about the future. Models are still limited in their ability to accurately represent observed TPDV, the authors say, and there are large model-to-model differences in the magnitude of simulated TPDV. Even so, these models are "essential tools" for improving our ability to predict future change in the tropical Pacific, and advances are expected from improvements in computing technology that enables higher spatial resolution, less reliance on parameterizations, longer model runs, and more.

Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #aay9165

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aay9165

Article #aay9165: "Decadal climate variability in the tropical Pacific" by Scott Power, Shayne McGregor, Benjamin J. Henley, Antonietta Capotondi, Matthew Newman, Myriam Khodri, Jérôme Vialard, Beyrem Jebri, Eric Guilyardi, Jong-Seon Kug, Geon-Il Kim, Michael J. McPhaden, Yann Y. Planton, Aaron Levine, Gerald Meehl, Doug Smith, Julia Cole, Julien Emile-Geay, Daniel Vimont, Andrew T. Wittenberg, Mat Collins, Wenju Cai, Xuebin Zhang, Guojian Wang, Xiaopei Lin, Yuko Okumura, Feng Zhu, Christine Chung, François Delage, Kim M. Cobb, Emanuele Di Lorenzo, Janet Sprintall, Jing-Jia Luo, Magdalena Balmaseda, Matthieu Lengaigne.

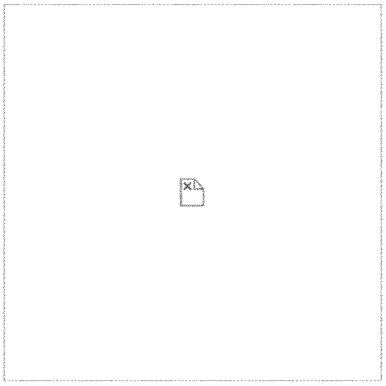
Contact: Scott Power - (b) (6) (email), (b) (6) (office phone) at University of Southern Queensland/Monash University/ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes.
Matthieu Lengaigne - matthieu.lengaigne@ird.fr(email), 33-649924943(office phone) at MARBEC, University of Montpellier, CNRS, IFREMER, IRD Sète.
Antonietta Capotondi - antonietta.capotondi@noaa.gov(email) at University of Colorado/NOAA.

DOI Information: 10.1126/science.aay9165

EMBARGOED: 30-Sep-2021 14:00 ET (30-Sep-2021 18:00 GMT/UTC)

Title: Single-cell nuclear architecture across cell types in the mouse brain

Science



Related Article Access Instructions:

Download PDFs and View author and institution info for #abj1966

This paper will be available after the embargo lifts at the following link:
www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj1966

Article #abj1966: "Single-cell nuclear architecture across cell types in the mouse brain" by Yodai Takei, Shiwei Zheng, Jina Yun, Sheel Shah, Nico Pierson, Jonathan White, Simone Schindler, Carsten Tischbirek, Guo-Cheng Yuan, Long Cai.

Contact: Long Cai - lcai@caltech.edu(email), b6 (office phone) at California Institute of Technology.

DOI Information: 10.1126/science.abj1966

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010796
MORENS_NIH_021352
REL0000479612

The following are TITLES of the full article list in the 1 October 2021 issue of *Science*

View full article list on press pack here **once logged in** to a EurekAlert! reporter account: https://www.eurekalert.org/press/scipak/toc

Article #abl9130: "The Superparaelectric State Delivers a New Pathway for Dielectric Energy Storage"

Article #abk0229: "Mapping water dissociation dynamics"

Article #abl8885: "Persistent pathogens and wildlife reservoirs"

Article #abm2239: "A treasure trove of programmable nucleases"

Article #abl9080: "Protein Interaction Networks Identify New Cancer Drivers"

Article #abg0856: "Hemophilia as a blueprint for gene therapy"

Article #abj9957: "Active learning: From 'hands-on' to 'minds-on'"

Article #aaz6830: "Mammalian in vitro gametogenesis"

Article #aay9165: "Decadal climate variability in the tropical Pacific"

Article #abf2911: "A protein network map of head and neck cancer reveals PIK3CA mutant drug sensitivity"

Article #abf3066: "A protein interaction landscape of breast cancer"

Article #abf3067: "Interpretation of cancer mutations using a multi-scale map of protein systems"

Article #abh2474: "The stress-sensing domain of activated IRE1α forms helical filaments in narrow ER membrane tubes"

Article #abh2890: "Light-induced mobile factors from shoots regulate rhizobium-triggered

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010797
MORENS_NIH_021353
REL0000479612

soybean root nodulation"

Article #abg9853: "Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emission plastics by a circular carbon economy"

Article #abj0731: "Iron catalyzed arene C−H hydroxylation"

Article #abe7165: "Microscopic evolution of doped Mott insulators from polaronic metal to Fermi liquid"

Article #abj1227: "Detection, Tracking, and Potential for Early Warning of Catastrophic Flow Events Using Regional Seismic Networks"

Article #abg3091: "Imaging the short-lived hydroxyl-hydronium pair in ionized liquid water"

Article #abg2026: "High-strength scalable MXene films via bridging-induced densification"

Article #abi7687: "Ultrahigh energy storage in superparaelectric relaxor ferroelectrics"

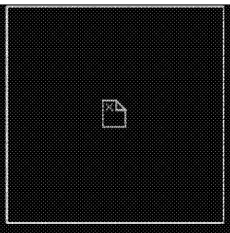
Article #abd2475: "Endemic persistence of a highly contagious pathogen: Foot-and-mouth disease in its wildlife host"

Article #abj1966: "Single-cell nuclear architecture across cell types in the mouse brain"

Article #abm5515: "Time to unfriend Facebook?"

Location Index

Looking for local authors? View the location index for this issue of the journal, now in its own separate portal on our press package:
https://www.eurekalert.org/press/scipak/toc_location



American Association for the Advancement of Science

1200 New York Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20005, USA

+1-202-326-6417 +1-866-434-2227 (toll-free)

Manage Subscription Unsubscribe Privacy Policy

This email was sent from AAAS/Membership to: mcortez@bloomberg.net

© 2021 AAAS

This email was sent to mcortez@bloomberg.net

why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences

EurekAlert! · 1200 New York Avenue NW · Washington, DC 20005 · USA

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:57:36 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:57:33 PM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]>
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>;
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6]>;

That's why I agreed to talk to him. We are now scheduled to talk on Friday at 9. He had scheduling problems today, and I do tomorrow. He is not on an immediate rush schedule, so hopefully he is giving some thought to the article. I will have read his other stuff – I didn't like the tone of the headlines, however.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: RE: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.

That's exactly the problem David – the only person calling them out is me, and I'm just barraged by attacks because of it. It's logical because I was the only US member of the WHO team, and that's the political football at the moment, but it's making life extremely difficult and risky right now. I really need others to step up and talk out about what the reality is here.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:48 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Re: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021228
MORENS_NIH_042081
REL0000479621

I do NOT know him, but he can't be much worse than some of the other bozos.

Yes, I did see the NYT article this morning, although it is not much worse than alot of the other stuff from Ebright and company,

I think all this piling on is because no one is calling these alarmists out.

Sometimes, as they say in American football, the best defense is a good offense....

d

On 4/7/2021 12:47 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> I got a call from Drew Hinshaw at the WSJ for an interview on Tedros call for investigation of the lab origin story. It looks like we will talk in the morning.
>
> Do either of you know him and how he approaches a story? Good guy or one to be wary of?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Apr 7, 2021, at 12:42 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:
> >
> > To add to that – another damaging article in the New York Times today.
> >
> > https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/07/health/coronavirus- lab-leak-who.html
> >
> > Please read the details and at the end the comment from Jamie Metzl – these people are lining up to shut down scientific research on viruses in wildlife – that's the exact opposite of what we'll need to do if we want to be prepared for the next pandemic.
> >
> > I can't fight this fight on my own – I'm cited in this article as usual, along with Marion Koopmans – both of us under daily attack from these conspiracists. We need bigger and louder voices fighting against this movement before it starts to do damage to scientific research.
> >
> > Cheers,
> >
> > Peter
> >
> > **Peter Daszak**
> > *President*
> >
> > EcoHealth Alliance
> > 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> > New York, NY 10018-6507
> > USA
> >
> > Tel.: b6
> > Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021229
MORENS_NIH_042082
REL0000479621

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:25 AM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Keusch, Jerry' [b6]
Subject: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
Importance: High

Just read your email about being allowed to do interviews on the WHO report David. Interesting and disappointing. Clearly the issue of COVID origins is not the political problem – it's the WHO report that's the problem. It's quite telling really, that the Biden Admin decided the WHO report would be a political football and therefore NSC/White House agenda, not a scientific issue and therefore NIH/NIAID agenda.

This is a symptom of a bigger issues – over the last 2-4 weeks, all of the allies who would normally talk to reporters about the science have either been silenced/sidelined, or are following a political agenda, e.g. the White House, the WHO Director-General (who single-handedly threw the whole WHO expert team under the bus), the former CDC director, and now NIAID – all following the political line.

The attacks reached a crescendo over this same period with daily op-eds in NY Post, WSJ, Daily Caller and other Right Wing papers bleeding over into CNN and even NPR. My Board are now beginning to get concerned and this puts me personally in a very difficult position – it's a risk to my job, my family's security, and my career. It's not a real problem yet – if the attacks die down a bit (which I believe they will), and if my Board continue to support me (I believe they will), the long game will win out.

But at this point I'm reaching out to call for help! Can we line up some allies who will help speak publicly about the science here on wildlife-to-human spillover vs. lab leak? Critically, there is still no evidence at all that a lab leak occurred, there is also no evidence at all that EcoHealth (or NIAID) funded or supported Gain-of-function work in China. Likewise, stories about EcoHealth 'hiding' DoD funding, being funded by China, not clearly indicating the source of funding on all public documents, etc. etc. are false and/or misleading. Still, the damage is being done and I'm worried that today the momentum is with the conspiracists.

Any and all ideas are welcome – ASTMH, NAM, NASEM, others?

Jerry – what about reaching out to Benjamin Corb and others?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021230
MORENS_NIH_042083
REL0000479621

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Jerry b6; Peter Daszak <
b6
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] <b6
To: David Morens b6 >

<image001.gif>
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021231
MORENS_NIH_042084
REL0000479621

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] <b6>
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] <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
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] <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens,

Thanks for sending. I'll write back to this reporter and ask her to send a fresh request to the press office once the WHO report is available – we can at that time better assess whether it makes sense for you or another NIAID expert to speak with the media about it.

Best,
Hillary

Hillary Hoffman, Ph.D., Writer/Editor
Office of Communications and Government Relations, NIAID, NIH
5601 Fishers Lane #6G38
Rockville, MD 20852
b6

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021232
MORENS_NIH_042085
REL0000479621

From: Mariana Lenharo [b6]
Date: March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
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. [b6]
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 11:02 AM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

> Thanks, you did a great job!
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> [b6] assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> [b6] [b6] [b6]
> [b6]
>
> Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**
>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo [b6]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:18 AM
> **To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021233
MORENS_NIH_042086
REL0000479621

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] <b6> wrote:

> I will be at b6 b6 b6 my cell…. ty
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> - b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> - b6
>
> Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**
>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo <b6>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:44 PM
> **To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
> **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 b6 b6 b6
>
> Thank you very much!
>
> Best,
>
> Mariana

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021234
MORENS_NIH_042087
REL0000479621

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 3:04 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> 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

<image001.gif>
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

From: Mariana Lenharo <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
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. b6
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 1:03 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> 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
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> b6 b6 b6
> b6
>
> Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**
>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo <b6>
> **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_SUBPOENA_021236
MORENS_NIH_042089
REL0000479621

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. b6
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2023 2:45:54 PM -0500
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: David Morens b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg

David Morens

b6

b6 b6 b6 (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **David Morens** b6
Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 8:38 PM
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 Gerald Keusch **b6** Peter Hotez < **b6** , Jeff Sturchio b6 , Rich Roberts **b6** >

What can i say but THANKS?!!!! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2023, at 20:23, Peter Daszak **b6** > wrote:

First, great to hear you've got legal support David. Thank Rich for reaching out to your daughter and helping – I spoke with David today and the lawyer he has is first rate.

Re. emails – I have all of your gmails and others to and from myself as pdfs. Jeff's looking through these at the moment to get a sense of how the SSCP might use them to generate publicity.

We'll also look through them for information re. the request below, and send those on to you.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Gerald Keusch <b6 Peter Hotez [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6] >
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

PS, there is some urgency to my responding, with all the info i can dig up. Sorry to ask a favor but this is an important "ask".

I have told nih that i have NOT done what nih defines as "government business" on my gmail, but rather on several occasions, in emails, gmails, and phone calls, to you and others, have requested that personal emails to me or cc'd to me should be sent to my gmail, and even later, sent to my proton mail.

In my understanding, personal emails that are not business of the US govt, include things like discussing death threats to scientists, investigations of non nih scientists for alleged wrongdoing, discussions about defending scientific integrity, etc

As govt scientists we DO NOT lose first amendment rights, but cannot take public positions on matters of government policy unless we identify ourselves as citizens, ie, not as government employees. Hence we have all been trained to keep personal stuff or emails that reflect opinions which are not USG policies, off of NIH email, and by default onto private mails like gmail

That is what i believe i have done, with the extra caveat that since i was being continually foia'd i also wanted to prevent the personal and private opinions and concerns of my friends, ie, all of you, from showing up in the newspapers, and reduce the chance that your harrassments would be magnified

I hope you will recall and even find emails that are supportive of the fact that i said to all of you that i could not discuss govt business on emails, but please keep me in the loop for my info, and that you

should not expect me to respond although i wanted to know what was happening

Stuff like that.

Some of you know that as of yesterday, and thanks to Rich and his daughter and her husband, b6 b6 NIH will apparently be happy to throw me under the bus to appease the House Subcommittee, but even at my age i feel i am still highly productive scientifically and have much more to do, including development of covid and influenza vaccines with our molecular pathogenesis lab and with our nih vaccine research center

Thanks for your support, david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 23, 2023, at 15:41, David Morens b6 wrote:
>
> Colleagues, the below letter is related to the nih investigation of me and the definition of "government business" as opposed to personal emails to and from colleagues on gmail that do not do government business such as managing grants, organizing meetings, and thins like that

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016599
MORENS_NIH_034741
REL0000479629

If you think you might have any emails or even remembrances of such, can you please let me know

For example my emails related to the one which the SSCP has quoting me as referring to the GOF unmentionables

Thank you, david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: August 23, 2023 at 15:18:16 EDT
To: David Morens b6
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < b6
Date: August 23, 2023 at 14:54:04 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Cc: "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" < 'Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" b6 "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016600
MORENS_NIH_034742
REL0000479629

b6

Subject: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David,

In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?

> *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.*

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016601
MORENS_NIH_034743
REL0000479629

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service (ret.)

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

b6 b6 b6 (assistant: Sherri DePollar)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 ; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6 ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci

b. Francis Collins

c. Lawrence Tabek

d. Hugh Auchincloss

e. Cliff Lane

f. David Morens

g. Ping Chen

h. Ian Watson

i. Andrew Pope

j. Victor Dzau

k. Robert Redfield

l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee

m. David Christian Hassell

n. Jeremy Farrar

o. Robert Garry

p. Michael Farzan

q. Edward Holmes

r. W. Ian Lipkin

s. Andrew Rambaut

t. Peter Daszak

u. Aleksei Chmura

v. Kevin Olival

w. Christian Drosten

x. Ron Fouchier

y. Marion Koopmans

z. Michael Worobey

aa. Jonathan Pekar

bb. Florence Debarre

cc. Angela Rasmussen

dd. Ralph Baric

ee. James LeDuc

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016604
MORENS_NIH_034746
REL0000479629

ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember

deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail, once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016605
MORENS_NIH_034747
REL0000479629

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than under identifying emails and stuff

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related..

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6** > wrote:

David,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016606
MORENS_NIH_034748
REL0000479629

If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

<image001.gif>

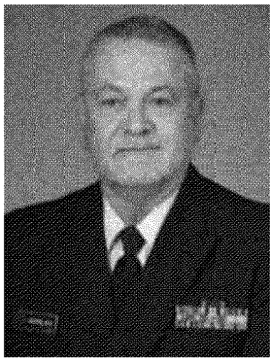
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health

Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

- b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6 Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6 Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks Jill,

i have a few questions.... see below

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 wrote:
>
> David,
>
> For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016609
MORENS_NIH_034751
REL0000479629

> You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

> Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those. Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there maybe emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] [b6] Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years

at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 > wrote:

Dr. Morens,

Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016612
MORENS_NIH_034754
REL0000479629

Thanks,

Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

Phone: b6

b6

Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016613
MORENS_NIH_034755
REL0000479629

Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:21:04 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:20:38 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6];
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

Good idea – a paragraph would do it. I think a rebuttal should be short and direct on the issue of 1) the evidence for the lab leak is not there, but for a natural origin is growing and substantial; 2) the call to investigate US scientists is inappropriate and likely to be counter-productive because it will drive further anti-science sentiments.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6]
Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003873
MORENS_NIH_010799
REL0000479633

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:
>
> Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!
>
> Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003874
MORENS_NIH_010800
REL0000479633

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]>; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6]; 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003875
MORENS_NIH_010801
REL0000479633

bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.

- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.

- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that "*EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.

- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.

- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.

- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003876
MORENS_NIH_010802
REL0000479633

SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.

- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis*." ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration *was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses* and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMED and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.***

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003877
MORENS_NIH_010803
REL0000479633

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'David Morens' b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003878
MORENS_NIH_010804
REL0000479633

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:
>
> I appreciate that Rich.
>
> I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003880
MORENS_NIH_010806
REL0000479633

no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003881
MORENS_NIH_010807
REL0000479633

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens <b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003882
MORENS_NIH_010808
REL0000479633

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003883
MORENS_NIH_010809
REL0000479633

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T < [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

  "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

  "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003885
MORENS_NIH_010811
REL0000479633

have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: b6
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6 David Morens <b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003886
MORENS_NIH_010812
REL0000479633

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: 713-798-1199
Fax: b6

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:
>
> Peter:
>
> As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: b6
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003887
MORENS_NIH_010813
REL0000479633

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs

called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003889
MORENS_NIH_010815
REL0000479633

coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

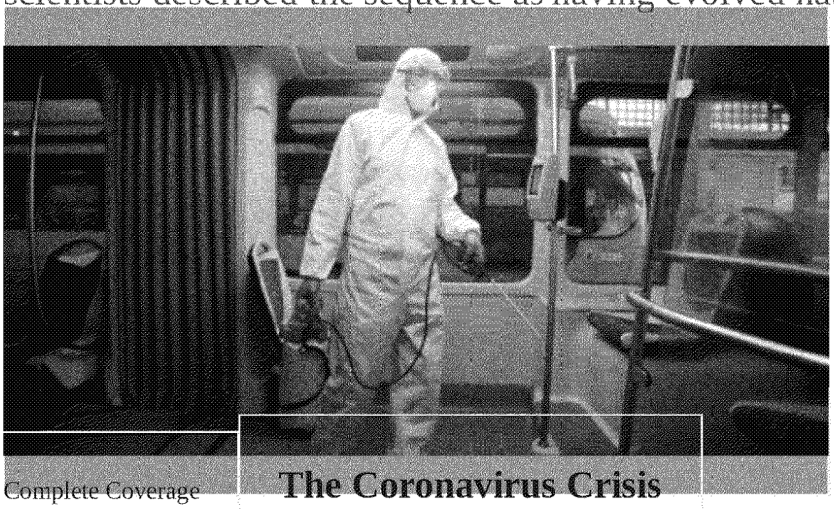
Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003890
MORENS_NIH_010816
REL0000479633

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



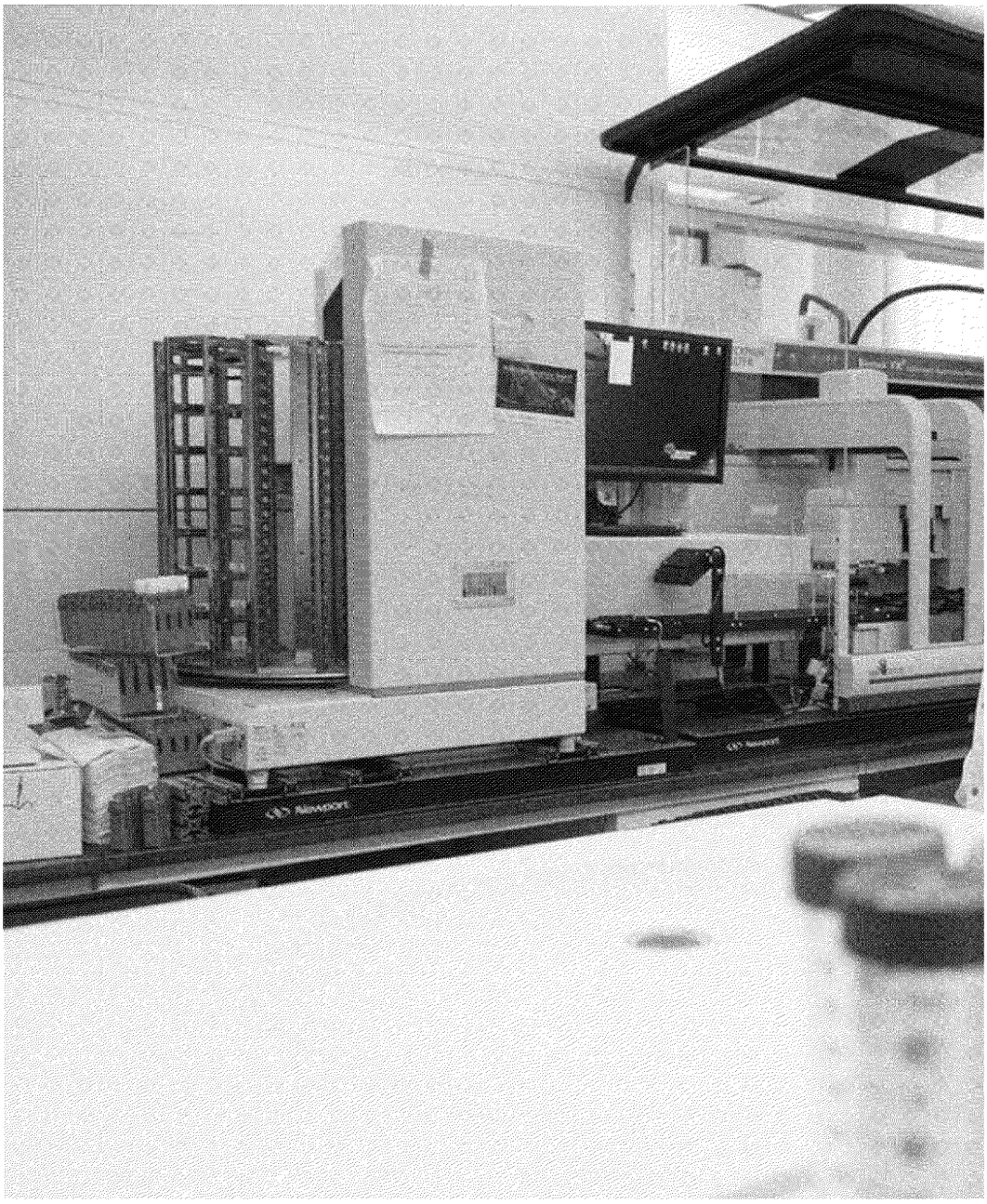
Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003891
MORENS_NIH_010817
REL0000479633

another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003892
MORENS_NIH_010818
REL0000479633

Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting

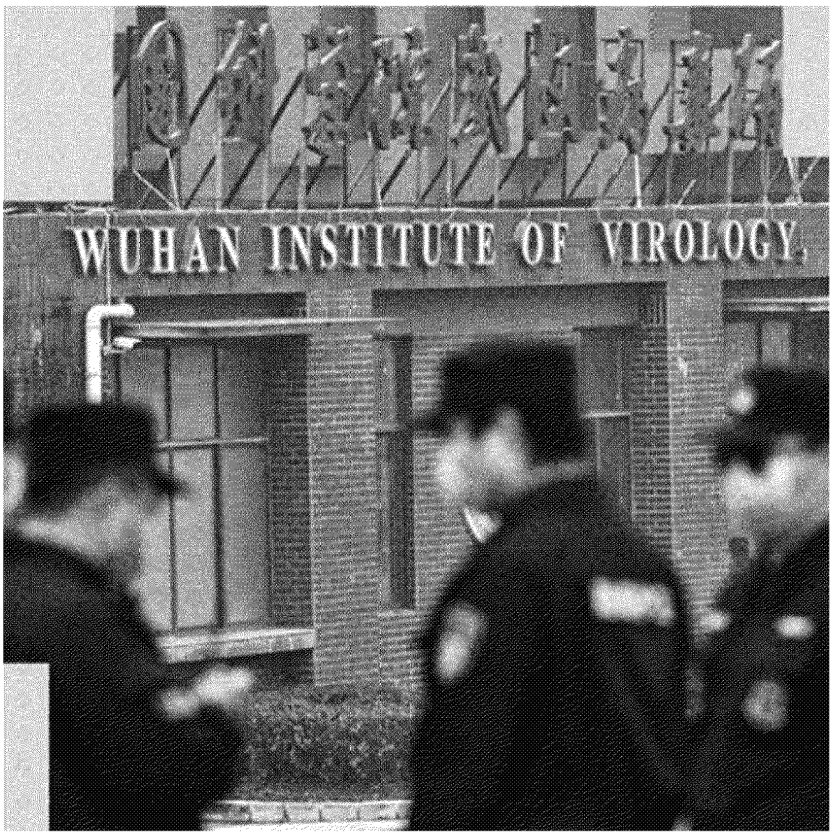
MORENS_SUBPOENA_003893
MORENS_NIH_010819
REL0000479633

verrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_003894
MORENS_NIH_010820
REL0000479633

Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003896
MORENS_NIH_010822
REL0000479633

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003897
MORENS_NIH_010823
REL0000479633

“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003898
MORENS_NIH_010824
REL0000479633

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

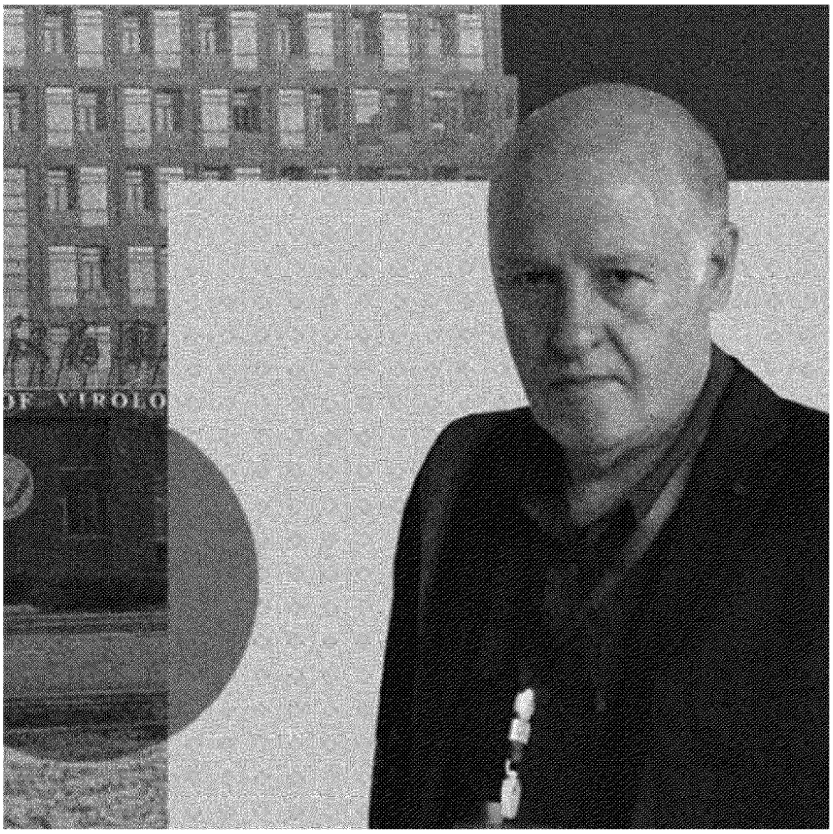
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003900
MORENS_NIH_010826
REL0000479633

Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003901
MORENS_NIH_010827
REL0000479633

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: b6
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>
Cc: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>; Keusch, Gerald T <keusch@bu.edu>; Jeffrey Sturchio <J_Sturchio@msn.com>; Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>; Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor

President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering,
Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003903
MORENS_NIH_010829
REL0000479633

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger.
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:
>
> This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.
>
> Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.
>
> Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.
>
> It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….
>
> PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD
Subject: RE: FW: Query from Ne
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disa I know that Dr. Bloom is making th reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducte packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003905
MORENS_NIH_010831
REL0000479633

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6g>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6, Jeffrey Sturchio <b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; peter hotez <b6; Roberts, Rich <
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <b6
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens <b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003906
MORENS_NIH_010832
REL0000479633

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

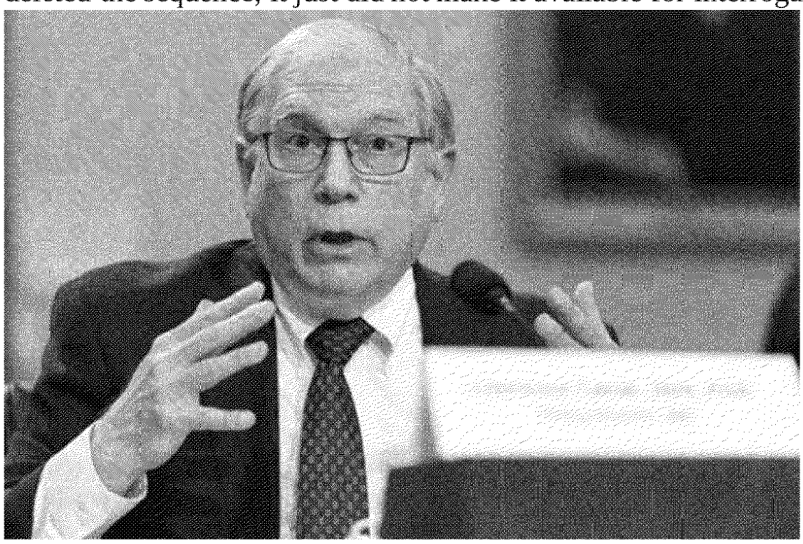
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003907
MORENS_NIH_010833
REL0000479633

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

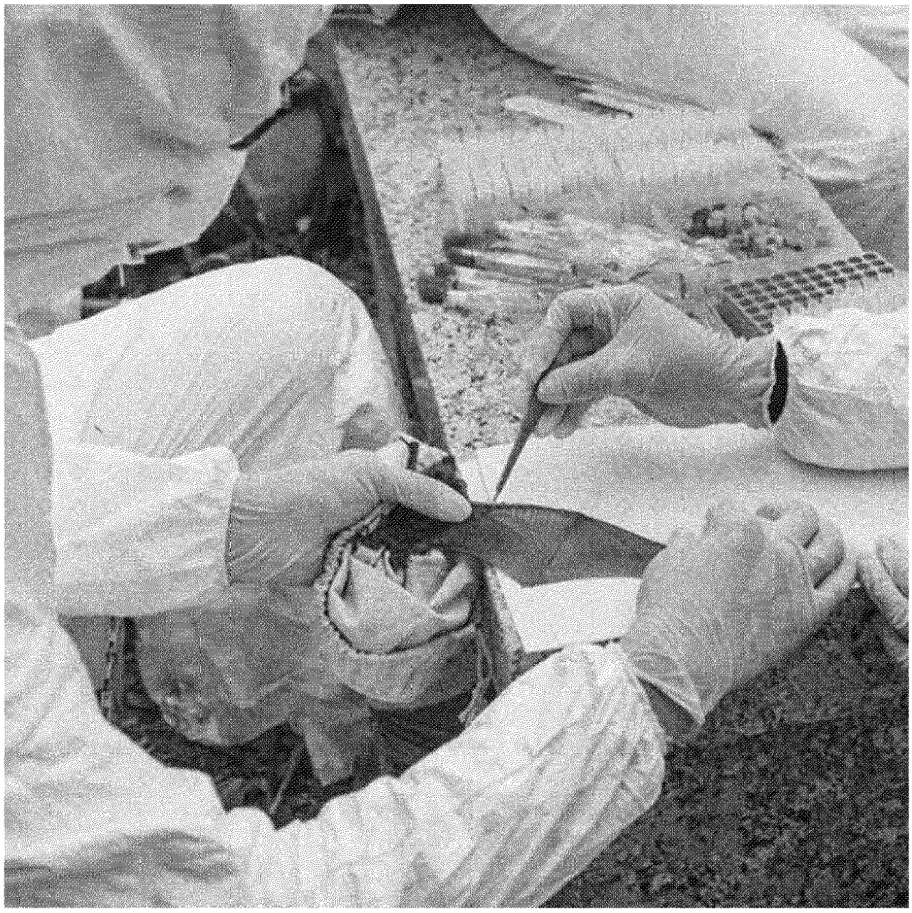
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.
Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you

received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Mon, 22 May 2023 10:28:23 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 May 2023 10:28:18 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6]

Understood.

JLS

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6]
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination

Jeff:

Harold may not be up for that and I'm not sure I would carry much weight on that particular topic. Probably best to come from Harold plus some well-recognized virologists. Mike Imperiale and Ian Lipkin would perhaps be better.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: roberts@neb.com

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] g >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich: Couldn't agree more that we need a different descriptor than "gain-of-function," particularly since this term has now become so politically loaded. If you and Harold can come up with a better descriptor, an op-ed by the two of you making the case for a different way of understanding this genre of research – with a different term – would be an excellent resource for bringing clarity and rationality to the debates around what is

currently known as GOF.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura < [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio < [b6]
Subject: FW: The new NIH Director nomination

Peter and Jerry:

Got this from Harold. Have you already delivered this material to NIAID?

I will respond to his GOF comment. It would probably be helpful to get another descriptor.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Harold E. Varmus < [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Re: The new NIH Director nomination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, yes, I know Monica and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005139
MORENS_NIH_013042
REL0000479640

decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:25 AM
To: Harold E. Varmus [b6]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The new NIH Director nomination

Harold:

You probably know Monica Bertagnolli and I am wondering if you will be contacting her prior to the Senate Hearing?

I ask because in light of the recent events related to EcoHealth Alliance she is likely to be questioned about their funding and the relationship to the COVID lab-leak hypothesis. I had let you know that their grant had been re-instated (2 1/2 years after we asked for it!), but I don't see that will stop some awkward questions for her.

If you do get the chance to chat you might mention some of the possible responses to questions that are covered in the attached.

If you will not be speaking with her, perhaps you could suggest someone else I might contact about this matter.

Hope all is well with you.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005140
MORENS_NIH_013043
REL0000479640

Date:	Thu, 16 Feb 2023 4:47:35 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 16 Feb 2023 4:47:27 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>;
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
Attachments:	image001.jpg

I did see the notice. Is it worth talking to Marcia McNutt and Vidar Helgesen to encourage them to include COVID origins among the examples of misinformation in May?

As ever,
Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

Did anybody see the notification that the National Academy of Sciences will host a Nobel Prize Summit on Countering Misinformation and Building Trust in Science on May 24-26? Now wouldn't it be nice if NASEM were to actually take a forceful public stance on misinformation and defamation of scientists?

Register to attend >>

https://www.nobelprize.org/events/nobel- prize-summit/2023/#tab-content/

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

😊

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald Keusch < [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019272
MORENS_NIH_038790
REL0000479642

Importance: High

Norfolk's famous for……..Turkeys… so that just about sums it up!



[redacted]g/wiki/Norfolk_Black

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [redacted]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted]; Peter Daszak [redacted]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [redacted]; David Morens [redacted]; Gerald Keusch <[redacted]; Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted]
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

Peter:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019273
MORENS_NIH_038791
REL0000479642

Blame the pilgrims. They were not very adventurous when it came to naming places.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 g >; David Morens b6 >; Gerald Keusch < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

EXTERNAL SENDER

As Angie Rasmussen says, why do they always pick names of quaint New England towns? Great Barrington, Norfolk…

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Feb 16, 2023, at 1:16 PM, Peter Daszak **b6** wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Good to see that the "Norfolk Group" is being called out in this way. No surprise it's a right-wing entity

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay **b6**
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak **b6**; Aleksei Chmura **b6** David Morens **b6**; Gerald Keusch **b6**; Jeffrey Sturchio **b6**; Rich Roberts
Subject: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

https://importantcontext.substack.com/p/new- scientist-group-calling-for-pandemic

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019276
MORENS_NIH_038794
REL0000479642

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:08 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: angie rasmussen on pbs newshour now discussing viral origins
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** b6
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 11:02 PM
Subject: Re: angie rasmussen on pbs newshour now discussing viral origins
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>, Peter Daszak <b6>, Rich Roberts <b6> Aleksei Chmura <b6> Greg Folkers <b6>, Jeffery Taubenberger b6

I'm hoping the Worobey paper in Science may help turn the tide

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jul 27, 2022, at 8:54 PM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > wrote:
>
> She cleaned up her act and was just as compelling, but not such a hoot as she is in tweets. Thanks for alerting me so I made sure I saw the PBS Newshour tonight.
>
> Jerry
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jul 27, 2022, at 6:56 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > David M Morens
> >
> > OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004221
MORENS_NIH_011201
REL0000479647

Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 11:05:47 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 11:04:41 AM -0400
Subject: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]

I just saw this in *Current Affairs*. At least this is not a major daily broadsheet, but it's filled with inaccuracies again (some of them highlighted in the text below, in order of appearance).

- He responds to the two papers in *Science* this week by dismissing the scientists (all 20+ of them) as having already stated their opinions prior to the paper, so what they're doing is simply creating a narrative.
- He states that the work in our rejected DARPA proposal was underway and being promoted very actively – again simply not true as I've stated publicly – the grant was not funded and the work not done.
- He goes into details of our unfortunate conversations as he tried to remove me from the Lancet Commission. He implies I didn't share the details of my work in China with him prior to joining. This is not true – it's why he invited me to lead the taskforce.
- He accuses me of 'misdirection' re. the work I've done in China. Not sure how publishing it in dozens of papers and speaking about it daily at the beginning of the pandemic is somehow misdirecting.
- He follows a common theme from the lab leakers that we had 180 viral 'strains' in the lab. Not true – we had hundreds of short RdRp sequences (few hundred base pairs) PCR'd from bat samples – only 3 viral strains in culture. All of this publicly released, all of it repeatedly stated.
- He makes a demand for 'lab notebooks' again. This amplifies the aggressive FoIAs and congressional attacks against us. I already told him EHA doesn't have a lab and doesn't keep 'lab notebooks'. Good luck asking for these from China with this aggressive narrative.
- He outright accuses scientists arguing that the virus did not come from a lab as 'lying'.
- He follows another lab leak narrative of dismissing EcoHealth's work as simply being a 'marriage-maker' between US and China labs to shunt NIH money to China. I'm very proud of the fact that EHA's work over the last two decades has led to multiple papers in *Nature*, *Science*, and all other leading journals. You just don't end up being senior author on these papers by acting as a 'marriage maker', but dismissing our scientific status is part of the lab leak agenda to undermine science.
- He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!
- Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever that is
- Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.
- He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is the reason I gave him for this in an email – NIH had refused to make those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive…
- Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.
- He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.
- He equates this work with nuclear weapons research
- He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009066
MORENS_NIH_019376
REL0000479649

corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan – that's just commonsense.

https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/why- the-chair-of-the-lancets-covid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-investigation-into-the-pandemic

Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is "pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology" and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.

- Current Affairs

filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the *Lancet*. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus's origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.

NATHAN ROBINSON:

I want to quote something that you said recently:

"I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I'm pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there's enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it's not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don't want to look underneath the rug, the statement."

The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the *New York Times* in the last year:

- "In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans."
- "Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic."

So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.

JEFFREY SACHS:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009067
MORENS_NIH_019377
REL0000479649

Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before they had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all. So they're creating a narrative. And they're denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That's the basic point.

Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called SARS-Cov-2, is notable because it has a piece of its genetic makeup that makes the virus more dangerous. And that piece of the genome is called the "furin cleavage site." Now, what's interesting, and concerning if I may say so, is that the research that was underway very actively and being promoted, was to insert furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses to see what would happen. Oops!

Well, that is what *may* have happened. And what has been true from the start is that that very real possibility, which a lot of scientists know, has not been looked at closely, even though it's absolutely clear that it could have happened that way. They're not looking. They just keep telling us, "Look at the market, look at the market, look at the market!" But they don't address this alternative. They don't even look at the data. They don't even ask questions. And the truth is from the beginning, they haven't asked the real questions.

But not *quite* the beginning. Because at the beginning, which we could date from the first phone call of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a group of virologists on February 1, 2020, the virologists said "Oh my god, that is strange, that could well be a laboratory creation. What is that furin cleavage site doing in there?" Because scientists knew that was part of an active ongoing research program. And yet, by February 3, the same group is saying "No, no, it's natural, it's natural." By February 4, they start to draft the papers that are telling the public, "Don't worry, it's natural." By March, they write a paper—totally spurious, in my view—called the proximal origins paper that is the most cited bio paper in 2020. It said: it is absolutely natural. [Note: the paper's conclusion is "we do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."] But they didn't have any of the data that you read about in the *New York Times*. They didn't have any of this. They just said the labs weren't working on this alternative. But you know what, they don't know what the labs were working on, because they never asked, and NIH hasn't told us.

ROBINSON:

Let me ask you if we can distinguish between what we know for certain and what is speculative because we just haven't got the data. So we *do* know that there was—correct me if I'm wrong—research proposed that would have dealt with this category of viruses and would have modified them in ways that would have made them potentially more lethal. Do we know whether that kind of research was in fact actually ongoing somewhere?

SACHS:

We have enormous reason to believe that it was. And clearly, we haven't even asked that question. But we have a lot of reason to believe that it was, because the scientists that were doing that research loved that research. And they explained to us publicly why it's so important. And they wrote editorials about why this research must continue. And they made grant proposals saying that it should continue. And for those of us in the business of writing grant proposals, the fact that a particular grant proposal that's deeply troubling was turned down *doesn't* mean that it wasn't carried out afterwards. But where is NIH saying, "Yeah, that's an interesting question. Why don't we get the evidence?" It doesn't even ask that question.

And the scientists like those that talk about the Huanan market, they don't even discuss that research that was underway. That is just misdirection, to my mind. It's like sleight of hand art. Don't look over there. Look over here. But we know that there was a tremendous amount of this research underway. We have interviews by the lead scientists. We have these research proposals. I know the intention of doing this research from discussions. I've read so many studies of the importance of this research claimed by the scientists. And yet I see NIH with its head in the ground. "Oh, no, nothing here to look at." And then I see the scientists. "Oh, nothing here to look at. We know it's the market. Did we find an animal? No. Do we have an explanation of where that furin cleavage site came in? No. We don't have an explanation of the timing, which doesn't quite look right. Oh, but *don't look over there,* because there's nothing there, they keep telling us. Well, that's a little silly.

So my point is, there is a huge amount of reason to believe that that research was underway. Because there are published papers on this. There are interviews on this. There are research proposals. But NIH isn't talking. It's not asking. And these scientists have never asked either. From the very first day, they have kept hidden from view the alternative. And when they discuss the alternative, they don't discuss the research program. They

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009068
MORENS_NIH_019378
REL0000479649

discuss complete straw men about the lab, not the actual kind of research that was underway, which was to stick furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses in a way that could have created SARS-Cov-2.
What I'm calling for is not the *conclusion.* I'm calling for the *investigation.* Finally, after two and a half years of this, it's time to fess up that it might have come out of a lab and here's the data that we need to know to find out whether it did.

ROBINSON:

One of the things that struck me that I didn't know when I started writing about this and actually doing some some research is realizing that in the years leading up to the pandemic, there was a huge controversy about whether it was wise to modify viruses in the course of research in ways that could make a virus more infectious or more lethal. And some people were arguing that this kind of research was insane. And some people were warning that in the case of a lab accident—an accident, mind you, not as an intentional "bioweapon"—a simple human error could cause a real catastrophe.

SACHS:

That is exactly right. There were several kinds of experiments of manipulation of the genes of dangerous viruses. And this raised a lot of alarm. And there was actually a moratorium in 2014. But the champions of this kind of research pushed on, they applied for waivers, which they got, and finally the moratorium came off in 2017. And they said how important it is to do this dangerous kind of research, because they claimed, "Well, there are lots of viruses out there. And we don't know when they're going to become highly pathogenic, and we need to develop drugs and vaccines against a wide spectrum of them. So we have to test all these viruses that we can find, to see whether they have high spillover potential." But they weren't actually aiming to just test viruses that they were collecting in nature. They were aiming to *modify* those viruses. Because the scientists knew that a SARS-like virus without a furin cleavage site wouldn't be that dangerous. But they wanted to test their drugs and vaccines and theories against dangerous viruses. Their proposal was to take hundreds, by the way—or least they talked about in one proposal more than 180 previously unreported strains—and test them for their so-called "spillover potential." How effective would they be? And to look: do they have a furin cleavage site, or technically what's called a proteolytic cleavage site? And if not, *put them in.* For heaven's sake. My God! Are you kidding?
Okay, but we didn't even ask the question from the first day: did you guys *do* that? Tell us what you did. Could you give us your lab notebooks? We're kind of curious. Instead, these people who are writing these *New York Times* articles right now and publishing these pieces about the market, from the first day—without asking about the experiments—they said, "Nope, it's natural." That's why I don't trust them. Because they've never looked at the alternative hypothesis. And their hypothesis has so many gaps, so many holes in it. But they don't even try to look at the alternative hypothesis.

ROBINSON:

I think it's very important to make clear that the "alternative hypothesis" is mainly a hypothesis about an accident, and scientific hubris. It's important to distinguish the kooky theories from the incredibly plausible theories. Because what you're talking about is people who did not appreciate the dangers of what they were doing.

SACHS:

In fact, it's very interesting. The alternative that is the *right* one to look at is part of a very extensive research program that was underway from 2015 onward, funded by the NIH, by Tony Fauci, in particular NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], and it was to examine the spillover potential of SARS-like viruses. The champions of this research explained in detail their proposals. But after the event, we'd never asked them, "So what were you actually doing? What experiments did you do? What do you know?" We somehow never asked. It was better just to sweep it under the rug, which is what Fauci and the NIH have done up until this point. Maybe they could tell us, "Oh, full exoneration," but they haven't told us that at all. They haven't shown us anything.
So there's nothing "kooky" about it, because it's precisely what the scientists were doing. And then you can listen to the scientists on tape describing why they think the research program is so important, because they say these are dangerous viruses, and therefore we have to prepare broad spectrum vaccines and drugs. They explain it's not good enough to test one or two viruses. We have to test all of them. And then they came to realize, as I said earlier, that just having a SARS-like virus, if it doesn't have this piece of the gene, it's almost surely not going to be that effective. So they got around to the idea. "Well, let's put these in," if you can imagine that. To

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009069
MORENS_NIH_019379
REL0000479649

my mind, it's mind-boggling.

But they were proud of this, because it's actually genius at a technological level. Can you imagine: you can take a sequence of letters, which defines the genome, you can recreate the virus just from the letters. You don't even have to have the biological virus in hand, you just need the sequence. Then you can say "I'm going to add these four letters RRAR, the furin cleavage site, or maybe it's eight, RRARSVAS, this is a sequence of eight b6 acids—I'm going to stick it in there right at the S1 S2 junction of the b6 b6 because I know from my research program that will make it more pathogenic, that is more disease-causing. And then I can see whether my drug candidates like remdesivir, or some other candidate works against it. That is their idea. There's nothing kooky about our claim: Hey, what were you doing? Because *they told us that they wanted to do these projects.* And they told us that they were wanting to do these projects in the months leading up to this outbreak. And then what is absolutely strange is that even though scientists knew right from the start, that is very weird to have that RRAR furin cleavage site in there—never saw that before in a SARS-like virus, and that that could well have come from a lab—hush, hush. Don't talk about it. Don't even discuss it. Just say right from the beginning: *This is natural. Of course, it's natural. Everything else is kooky.*

So you saw a narrative being created. And the scientists are not acting like scientists. Because when you're acting like a scientist, you're pursuing alternative hypotheses. And the scientists just wrote recently an op-ed saying the only evidence that this came out of a lab that's been put forward is that it came in a city, Wuhan, where an institute was located. Well, that's a lie. That is not the only coincidence that leads to this theory. What leads to this alternative hypothesis is the *detailed research program the NIH funded* that was underway in the years leading up to the outbreak. So I see the scientists absolutely trying to create a narrative and take our eyes off of another issue.

Now, again, let me emphasize, we don't have definitive evidence of either hypothesis. But what we do have is definitive evidence that officialdom has tried to keep our eyes away from the lab creation hypothesis.

ROBINSON:

You mentioned the lab in Wuhan. It's not just that there was a lab in Wuhan doing research on viruses. But there were ties between the lab and those pursuing this program. What do we know about the research that was actually occurring there?

SACHS:

We know that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the scientists there had been trained by American scientists to use advanced bioengineering methodologies. And in particular, we have scientists in North Carolina, Texas, and so forth who do this kind of research, believe in it, argue for it, and say that they don't want any regulations on it and so on. And they were in close contact with Wuhan Institute of Virology, and they were part of a joint research group that was stitched together by something called EcoHealth Alliance. And EcoHealth Alliance was the kind of marriage maker between the American scientists and the Chinese scientists. That was the vehicle for funding from the U.S. government, especially from the National Institutes of Health, and especially from Tony Fauci's unit, the NIAID. There were years of grants, there were grant proposals. We don't know exactly what was done. But we have enough reason to know that we should be *asking* exactly what was done. And we know definitively that from the beginning, NIH has been running from telling us what has been done. They're not telling us the truth, that they had reason to fear from the start that this came out of a lab. And that to this day, they have reason to suspect it, but they're not talking.

ROBINSON:

A shocking thing to me was that the head of the EcoHealth Alliance was on the World Health Organization team that actually investigated the origins of COVID and concluded that it wasn't the lab.

SACHS:

Well, more than that: I appointed him—this was Peter Daszak—I appointed him to chair the task force of the pandemic commission that I was running for the *Lancet.* And he headed a task force on the origins. I thought, naively at the beginning, "Well, here's a guy who is so connected, he would know." And then I realized he was not telling me the truth. And it took me some months, but the more I saw it, the more I resented it.

And so I told him, "Look, you have to leave." And then the other scientists in that task force attacked me for being anti-scientific. And I asked them: "What are your connections with all of this?" They didn't tell me. Then when the Freedom of Information Act released some of these documents that NIH had been hiding from the public, I saw that people that were attacking me were also part of this thing. So I disbanded that whole task

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009070
MORENS_NIH_019380
REL0000479649

force. So my own experience was to witness close up how they're not talking. And they're trying to keep our eyes on something else. And away from even asking the questions that we're talking about. We don't have the answers. But we have good reasons to ask. And we have good reasons to know that NIH is not doing its job properly right now.

ROBINSON:

So you're saying that Daszak and others did not disclose to you pretty serious conflicts of interest? Since, on the hypothesis that it had something to do with this kind of research, that would have implicated Daszak himself in the origins of the crisis?

SACHS:

Well, he could have explained to me right from the beginning that there was a big research program and that they were manipulating the viruses, and here's how. He could have given me the research proposals. And when I asked him for one of the research proposals, he said, "No, my lawyer says I can't give it to you." I said, "What? You're heading a commission. We're a transparent commission. You're telling me your *lawyer* says you can't give me your project proposal." I said, "Well, then you can't be on this commission. This is not even a close call."

But there were so many other things. He was just filled with misdirection. I don't know whether he understands or not, maybe he doesn't understand. But the things he said just were absolutely not right.

ROBINSON:

When people hear you say, "They're sweeping it under the rug, they don't want to look," one question that may come to their minds is "Well, why? Why would people not be interested in getting to the truth?" But the alternate hypothesis from the natural spillover that you're talking about could have serious repercussions. It would implicate a lot of people in potentially millions of deaths. So there's a lot at stake here for the scientific community. Which explains why there would be an interest in directing people away from this possibility.

SACHS:

There are at least two reasons why they might be doing what they're doing. One is, as you say, the implications are huge. Imagine if this came out of a lab. And we have, by some estimates, about 18 million dead worldwide from this. That's not the official count. But that's the estimated excess mortality from COVID. Well, the implications of that—the ethical, the moral, the geopolitical—everything is enormous.

But there's a second matter that is really important, too. One thing that is rather clear to me is that there is so much dangerous research underway right now under the umbrella of biodefense or other things that we don't know about, that is not being properly controlled. This is for sure. And that's happening around the world. And governments say "don't poke your nose into that." That's our business, not your business. But it's actually our business. It's our business to understand what is going on with this. This is not to be kept secret. We don't trust you.

Let me put it this way: I don't trust them right now. I want to know. Because even what we know of the dangerous research is enough to raise a lot of questions of responsibility for the future. And to pose the question: "Hey, what other viruses are you guys working on? What should we know?" Because no matter what the truth is on SARS-Cov-2, what is pretty clear is we've got so much technological capacity to engineer dangerous pathogens right now. And a lot of that is being done. And it's classified. It's secret, and we don't know what it is. And I don't like that feeling at all. I don't recommend it for us and for the world.

ROBINSON:

Well, you've rather answered the question of why it's important to get to the bottom of this. Because one of the excuses you hear is, "Well, who really cares? Does it matter? It was an animal, it was a lab, whatever it is, it's here." But what you're saying is, "No, we actually need to know where this started." Because this isn't going to be the only one, whatever the origins are. And we don't want people to die from future viruses. This is critically important. If we're going to save millions of lives, we have to find out the answer.

SACHS:

I can tell you one thing that I've learned from talking to a lot of scientists in the last couple of years: the technological capacity to do dangerous things using this biotechnology is extraordinary right now. So I want to know what's being done. I want to know what other governments are doing, too, not just ours. I want some global control over this stuff.

We've kind of understood the nuclear risk—even that, of course, is in a lot of ways hidden from view. But this

is a clear and present risk. And there's reason to believe we're actually in the midst of it, not just hypothetically. So come on: it's time to open the books everywhere. It's time to find out. Maybe it was the marketplace. Maybe it wasn't a lab. But we need to get real answers, now. Not the kind of misdirection that's been going in since February 2020. Enough nonsense! Enough *New York Times* stories saying, "Oh, it's this, it's that," without looking closely at the very plausible laboratory hypothesis.

ROBINSON:

It seems from what you're saying that as the head of the *Lancet*'s COVID-19 commission, you didn't feel you were able to get satisfactory answers or see the data you wanted. What kind of investigation do we need and who ought to do it?

SACHS:

The most interesting things that I got as chair of the *Lancet* commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy. What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.

If you enjoyed this article, please consider subscribing to our magnificent print edition or making a donation. *Current Affairs* is 100% reader-supported.

Current Af

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Sat, 24 Sep 2022 8:31:45 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 24 Sep 2022 8:31:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Confidential - advance copy of our upcoming report from our (formerly Lancet) Task force
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6

Good to see you at CREID David, its so nice after so long with only Zoom and email connections.

Please share the manuscript with Tony, and let him know we did not want to have it appear without his prior knowledge. If you think I should send it on to Greg Folkers let me know and I will do that.

Look forward to many more in-person encounters, maybe less of better wine, and the same good cheer and vibes we had, because it would be hard to exceed that.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 10:39 PM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Confidential - advance copy of our upcoming report from our (formerly Lancet) Task force
Importance: High

Hi David – here's the PNAS paper that represents the official report of our Task Force (formerly under the Lancet COVID-19 Commission). Also attached is the supporting information

Please share with Tony. Obviously it's been hard to stick to the original workplan, given the trouble we had with Jeff Sachs' interference, but we hope that you'll agree the report is a decent assessment of what happened with COVID in relation to prior emerging diseases (mainly RNA virus outbreaks), and makes a strong case for a One Health approach for pandemic prevention strategies, given CoVs and other viruses' ability to recombine and jump hosts. We then lay out a series of recommendations and we think these will have legs.

Also attached is a copy of the appendices (Supporting information). Of particular interest will be Table S6, and the discussion afterwards that deals with the evidence for a so-called 'natural' origin of COVID-19 vs. a lab leak. We went through almost all of the papers or reports that provide an argument for origins of COVID, summarized them, and whether they are primary data/analysis, op ed, review articles, and whether they've been peer-reviewed or just put up on the web as preprints or unreviewed blog-like articles.

Please pass on our best regards to Tony, of course!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012374
MORENS_NIH_023526
REL0000479650

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012375
MORENS_NIH_023527
REL0000479650

Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 10:31:57 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 10:31:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; peter hotez [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
CC: John Feigelson [b6]

Jocelyn Kaiser's piece in *Science* about today's hearing – a balanced account compared to the other media coverage we're seeing.

https://www.science.org/content/article/house- lawmakers-both-sides-grill-head-nonprofit-worked-with-chinese-virologists

JLS

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:29 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; peter hotez [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

Peter:

These political attacks are very concerning for all of us. I must say that I admire your ability to sustain them. Apparently, it is not just the Republicans that are out of control, but many Democrats too.

Keep fighting though and don't give up.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

Executive Assistant [b6]
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:14 PM

MORENS_NIH_051339
REL0000479651

To: David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Roberts, Rich <b6>; peter hotez <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: RE: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is probably the only good report in the press so far – all the rest is right wing animus about how EcoHealth should be debarred, and I should be referred for criminal investigation.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: <b6>
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

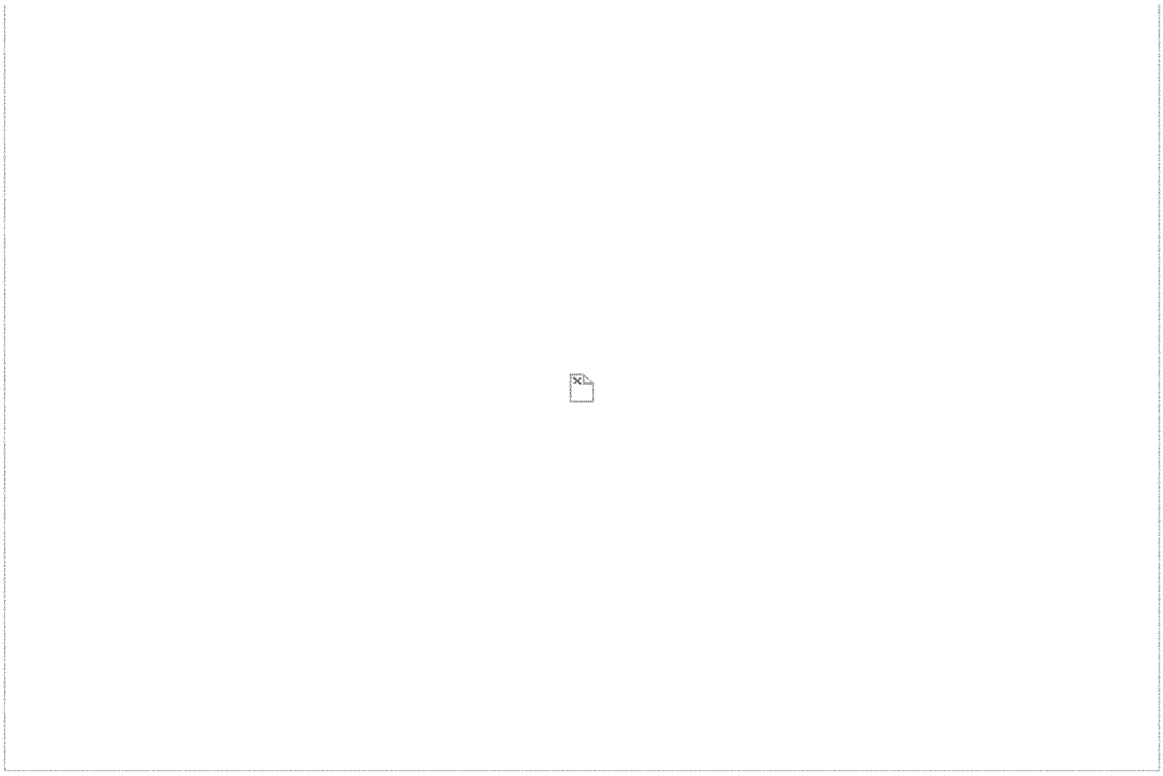
From: David Morens <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 7:49 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <
<b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; peter hotez <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <
<b6>
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <b6>
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 19:36
Subject: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
To:

Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

A heated hearing produced no new evidence that Peter Daszak or his nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, were implicated in the Covid outbreak.



Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, testifying during a hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.Credit...Ting Shen for The New York Times

By Benjamin Mueller
May 1, 2024, 6:54 p.m. ET

House Republicans demanded on Wednesday that the president of a virus-hunting nonprofit group be criminally investigated and barred from federal research funds, a sharp escalation in their campaign against scientists in the United States who Republicans have suggested either had links to the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic or obscured its true beginnings.

During a heated three-hour hearing of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Republican lawmakers at times raised their voices at the nonprofit's leader, Peter Daszak, and said that they believed that he would fare poorly as a defendant in criminal court.

The nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, which receives federal funding to study global threats from wild animal viruses, has faced suspicion over a proposal that it made in 2018 to team up with Chinese scientists on novel

MORENS_NIH_051341
REL0000479651

coronavirus experiments that Republicans believe could have led to the pandemic, despite that project's never receiving funding.

But in a report and in extensive questioning on Wednesday, the Republicans offered no new information suggesting that EcoHealth Alliance or Dr. Daszak were involved in the coronavirus outbreak. And they did not produce any evidence pointing directly to a coronavirus leak from a lab in China, with or without EcoHealth's involvement, a hitch in their yearslong effort to implicate Chinese and American scientists in the beginnings of the pandemic.

Democrats on the subcommittee seized on the dearth of new evidence, even as they echoed Republican concerns that Dr. Daszak had not been forthcoming about his collaborations with Chinese scientists.

The subcommittee, which is led by Republicans, has reviewed nearly a half-million pages of documents and conducted over 100 hours of private interviews in the course of investigating the origin of Covid, Representative Raul Ruiz of California, the panel's top Democrat, said on Wednesday.

But, Mr. Ruiz said, the subcommittee has found "no evidence" linking the pandemic to EcoHealth's research. And he added that the investigation had not "meaningfully advanced our understanding of the pandemic's origins." Rather, he said, the subcommittee's work now "appeared to be an effort to weaponize concerns about a lab-related origin to fuel sentiment against our nation's scientists and public health officials for partisan gain."

Republicans, for their part, pledged that their investigation would continue. They have called Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to testify next month. A Republican member of the subcommittee pushed in January for Dr. Fauci to be jailed.

"I support work that will make the world safer," the chairman of the subcommittee, Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, a Republican, said as he opened the hearing on Wednesday. "Our concern is that this research and research similar does the opposite," he said, referring to EcoHealth's collaborations with Chinese scientists. "It puts the world at the risk of a pandemic."

Republicans and Democrats alike hammered Dr. Daszak on Wednesday for what they described as a long list of misrepresentations and evasions. They suggested, among other things, that he was being untruthful about why he had been late to submit a required report to health officials before the pandemic and that he had cast research proposals in ways that helped his chances of receiving funding but misled reviewers. Dr. Daszak strongly denied those charges.

Much of the suspicion centered on an EcoHealth request made in 2018 for Defense Department funding to collect and experiment on coronaviruses with novel traits that would make them highly transmissible in humans.

EcoHealth's proposed partners included the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a premier site for coronavirus research in China. That institute's presence in the city where the Covid outbreak began was at the heart of theories that the virus had first infected people as a result of research activities.

Republicans said that notes on a draft of the proposal from 2018 suggested Dr. Daszak was trying to mislead American officials about the extent of Chinese involvement in the project. Dr. Daszak denied that, saying that he had sought — and received — approval from American defense officials for Chinese scientists to participate. Dr. Daszak said the research had never been carried out.

"It's utterly irrelevant to the origins of Covid," Dr. Daszak said of the proposal. He acknowledged that Wuhan scientists could have been conducting research independently that he was not aware of.

The Wuhan institute's biosafety practices have intensified concerns about the possibility of a lab leak. On Wednesday, Republicans doubled down on worries about its lab's protocols, citing private emails and comments in a closed-door congressional interview by Ralph Baric, a virologist at the University of North Carolina who has collaborated with EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

In an email to Dr. Daszak in 2021, Dr. Baric said the Wuhan institute had failed to conduct virus experiments under appropriately safe conditions, and called the idea that they were taking proper precautions a "load of BS." Still, Dr. Baric told Dr. Daszak in a separate email that year that the coronavirus had most likely jumped from animals to people outside of a lab. He cited the absence of any evidence that the Wuhan institute possessed a virus related closely enough to the one that caused the pandemic.

There remains no evidence that the Wuhan institute stored any virus that could have become the coronavirus and caused Covid, with or without scientific tinkering, researchers have said.

Scientists who specialize in tracing outbreaks have published analyses of early cases and viral genomes that they say point to the pandemic's starting at an illegal wild-animal market in Wuhan. The presence of the

MORENS_NIH_051342
REL0000479651

coronavirus in samples from the market containing genetic material linked to raccoon dogs, they have said, is consistent with that scenario.

Dr. Daszak cited animal-borne disease threats on Wednesday in defending projects by EcoHealth, which works with collaborators around the world to identify and study dangerous viruses circulating in nature.

In April 2020, as EcoHealth came under attack from President Donald J. Trump, the group had a grant terminated by the National Institutes of Health. The grant was reinstated last year, but it does not provide funding for any research in China. The Biden administration has also taken steps to impose a 10-year ban on funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Republicans on Wednesday cited concerns about EcoHealth's compliance with grant reporting requirements in arguing that EcoHealth, too, should be barred from receiving federal funds. The N.I.H. faulted the group in 2021 for failing to promptly report findings from studies on how well bat coronaviruses grow in mice. An internal federal watchdog agency chided the N.I.H. last year for failing to demand a progress report from EcoHealth that was two years late.

In an interview after the hearing, Mr. Wenstrup, the Republican subcommittee chair, said that oversight by health agencies was too weak. He called for the creation of criminal penalties for violating health agency protocols — "anything from a misdemeanor to a felony," he said — as a way of better policing certain scientific research.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sun, 5 Sep 2021 12:03:27 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Times, UK: How US cash funded Wuhan lab dealing in deadly viruses
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6
Attachments: image006.gif; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg

Pure unadulterated BS – the cables from Bill Switzer were lauding our research and the whole trip was set up to increase intl. collaboration. Disingenuous innuendo-filled reporting as usual. Book written by a hard right reporter who's cashing in on this conspiracy.

It's also BS to claim that international researchers weren't welcome. When Zhengli Shi spoke at the Nipah meeting in Singapore in early Dec. 2019, she openly advertised for intl. scientists to apply to WIV to work there.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Kessler, Robert (b6 ; Keusch, Jerry (b6
Subject: FW: Times, UK: How US cash funded Wuhan lab dealing in deadly viruses

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013732
MORENS_NIH_025897
REL0000479653

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Saturday, September 4, 2021 6:27 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Times, UK: How US cash funded Wuhan lab dealing in deadly viruses

CORONAVIRUS | BOOK EXTRACT

How US cash funded Wuhan lab dealing in deadly viruses

Controversial research to make diseases more potent was backed by Dr Anthony Fauci, chief medical adviser to the White House, reveals a new book on the cover-ups and conspiracies of the pandemic

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013733
MORENS_NIH_025898
REL0000479653



The scientist Shi Zhengli was well known for sampling thousands of bats in her role as director of the emerging infectious diseases centre at the Wuhan Institute of Virology
CHINATOPIX VIA AP
Sharri Markson
Saturday September 04 2021, 12.01am BST, The Times

It's late March 2018 and the US career diplomat Rick Switzer has just flown home to Beijing after a trip to Wuhan. Along with his colleague Jamie Fouss, the US consul-general in Wuhan, he'd led a delegation of American environmental, science, technology and health consular staff to inspect the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where he'd met Shi Zhengli, the "batwoman". It was two years before a pandemic would arise from that very city — perhaps even that very laboratory — and he was deeply concerned about what he saw during his visit. The consular official at the US embassy in Beijing tapped out a "sensitive but unclassified" cable to send back to the State Department. He needed to let Washington know just what was going on inside China's new level-4 biocontainment facility dealing with the world's deadliest and most contagious pathogens. The cable warned of poor safety practices at the laboratory.

Switzer pressed send on the cable two weeks later, on April 19, 2018, with the subject line: "China Virus Institute Welcomes More US Co-operation on Global Health Security". It was an unusual choice of email subject, because the contents of his cable outlined how the opposite was true. The laboratory, built on the condition of international collaboration, was severely limiting the number of international researchers who could work inside its walls.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology level-4 lab had originally been built in conjunction with the Jean Mérieux BSL-4 Laboratory in Lyons, France. It was to be China's first high-containment laboratory under the direction of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which is under People's Liberation Army control. Construction of the laboratory began in 2004 and took 11 years to complete, finally finishing on January 31, 2015. The project cost $44 million. It is a vast building, with four floors stretching over 3,000 sq m (32,000 sq ft). It was accredited in February 2017 by the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment, and began working on live viruses by 2018.

There were "intense clashes" between the French and Chinese parties during the construction phase, according to a Chinese Academy of Sciences video. It was far from a smooth process. Even before the deal was signed, there was strong objection in France to co-operating on such a laboratory in Wuhan, but the scientists advocating the collaboration won.

Once the laboratory was up and running, the French were soon kicked out. While the initial funding, training and construction was in conjunction with the French, according to Switzer and Fouss's cable, "it is entirely China-funded and has been completely China-run since a 'handover' ceremony in 2016". And despite being built in the name of international scientific collaboration, few international researchers were welcome to work inside the facility. "Institute officials said there would be 'limited availability' for international and domestic scientists who had gone through the necessary approval process to do research at the lab," the cable stated.

So a laboratory working with the most lethal pathogens known to humankind had effectively cut off collaboration with the international community.



Security keep watch outside the Wuhan institute during a visit by the World Health Organisation in February. The institute was accredited in 2017 and began working on live viruses by 2018
THOMAS PETER/REUTERS

What made this particularly alarming was the work the laboratory was conducting. Disturbingly, Switzer and Fouss discovered the laboratory was setting up its very own database identifying all deadly viruses with pandemic potential. It would be its own version of a concept called the Global Virome Project (GVP), the cable stated. "The GVP aims to launch this year as an international collaborative effort to identify within ten years virtually all of the planet's viruses that have pandemic or epidemic potential and the ability to jump to humans," the cable read.

The cable quoted a Wuhan Institute of Virology official saying: "We hope China will be one of the leading countries to initiate the Global Virome Project." But in the meantime, the institute official told Switzer and Fouss that they were already running a similar project of their own.

This revelation — of such a database being developed by a laboratory where the US had no oversight — should have been highly alarming. Except it's unclear whether anybody with any level of seniority ever read this cable after it was sent to the State Department and intelligence apparatus in Washington.

The cable made clear the extent of the US involvement with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "In the last year, the institute has also hosted visits from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation and experts from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston." It said the Galveston branch had trained the Wuhan lab technicians in lab management and maintenance while the US National Science Foundation had just concluded a workshop with the Wuhan Institute in Shenzhen involving 40 scientists from the US and China.

It also made clear — at this early stage — how America was funding the coronavirus research at the Wuhan lab. "NIH was a major funder, along with the National Science Foundation of China, of Sars research by the Wuhan Institute of Virology," the cable states. The paragraphs that follow are redacted.

Shi Zhengli was well known in the close-knit scientific community that studied bat coronaviruses. She had become a scientific celebrity after discovering the closest virus to Sars in bats. As the director for the Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, she became known as the "batwoman" for her sampling of thousands of bats in remote caves.

It was nothing compared with the global fame she would attract after the pandemic outbreak. Her institute's research, with all its risks, would be exposed for the world to judge.

Shi has in total collected 19,000 samples and coronavirus was detected in 2,481 of them, according to information she provided to the World Health Organisation in February this year. She had been engaging in genetically modifying viruses since at least 2006. A paper published in the *Journal of Virology* that year shows she was trying to determine how coronaviruses gain the ability to skip from one species to another by "inserting different segments from the human SARS-CoV spike protein into the spike protein of the bat virus".

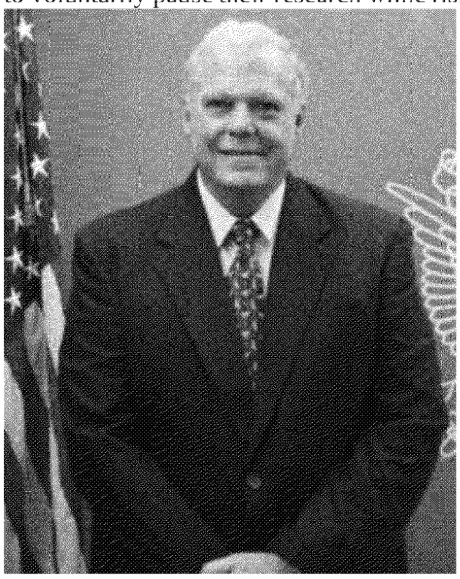


Dr Anthony Fauci defended the scientists who had undertaken the controversial gain-of-function research which aims to make viruses more infectious and deadlier or more virulent, often to humans
STEFANI REYNOLDS/XINHUA/ALAMY

When questions arose in China about whether her laboratory was the source of the outbreak at the start of February last year — three months before President Trump raised the prospect — Shi snapped. "Those who believe and spread rumours, shut your dirty mouth," she posted on the WeChat social media app on February 6. Instead, she said, Covid-19 "is nature's punishment for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013735
MORENS_NIH_025900
REL0000479653

uncivilised living habits of human beings. I, Shi Zhengli, use my life to guarantee that it has nothing to do with our lab."
Just how dangerous was the research she was conducting, often without the watchful eyes of international partners? What were Shi and her colleagues up to, and who was funding it?
Of particular focus would be her "gain-of-function" experiments. Gain-of-function research aims to make viruses more infectious and deadlier or more virulent, often to humans. The technical definition is research that "involves experimentation that is expected to increase the transmissibility and/or virulence of pathogens". It can result in a pathogen acquiring new abilities; for example, a bat virus becoming able to infect humans or a virus that wasn't airborne having the ability to become so.
This research, which has been carried out in the US and other western countries as well as China, has been justified by scientists who claim it could help predict pandemics by discovering which viruses are capable of becoming infectious to humans. They say this allows them to pre-emptively develop vaccines and therapeutics. But only two laboratories globally were doing gain-of-function research on coronaviruses prior to the pandemic.
Other research projects may not strictly fall into the gain-of-function category but are equally dangerous. They include bringing back to life very old viruses and manipulating them in a laboratory. This type of research deals with what are referred to as "potential pandemic pathogens".
To many outside the scientific community, this type of experimentation sounds absurd. How is it even legal, given the astronomical risks? Debate has raged about the grave dangers of allowing gain-of-function research to take place. There are two main concerns. Firstly, it can be misused for malevolent military purposes such as bioweapons. Secondly, it can accidentally cause a pandemic.
Global controversy around this type of research ignited in 2012, when scientists wanted to see if it would be possible for bird flu (H5N1) to evolve naturally into a virus that was capable of human-to-human transmission, and thus cause a pandemic. Their stated intention was to be able to predict which viruses could turn into a pandemic. Scientists fiercely opposed to gain-of-function research formed a body called the Cambridge Working Group in 2014. There were 200 esteemed signatories. They released a letter specifically warning that accidents while scientists were experimenting with these dangerous viruses could cause "an accidental pandemic" that could infect a quarter of the world's population. "Accident risks with newly created 'potential pandemic pathogens' raise grave new concerns," their letter said. "Laboratory creation of highly transmissible, novel strains of dangerous viruses, especially but not limited to influenza, poses substantially increased risks. An accidental infection in such a setting could trigger outbreaks that would be difficult or impossible to control. Historically, new strains of influenza, once they establish transmission in the human population, have infected a quarter or more of the world's population within two years."
This type of research carries such a grave risk of causing a pandemic that President Obama paused funding for gain-of-function experiments in 22 fields in 2014, including research involving Sars, influenza and Mers viruses. This happened after an outcry in the scientific community about the dangerous experiments some virologists were conducting. "Specifically, the funding pause will apply to gain-of-function research projects that may be reasonably anticipated to confer attributes to influenza, Mers, or Sars viruses such that the virus would have enhanced pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route," the White House statement, dated October 17, 2014, said. "During this pause, the US government will not fund any new projects involving these experiments and encourages those currently conducting this type of work — whether federally funded or not — to voluntarily pause their research while risks and benefits are being reassessed."



Jamie Fouss, the US consul-general in Wuhan
CHINA.USEMBASSY- CHINA.ORG.CN
Before the ban took effect, Dr Anthony Fauci, a director at the NIH, had welcomed a voluntary pause on gain-of-function research but argued that "the benefits of such experiments and the resulting knowledge outweigh the risks. It is more likely that a

pandemic would occur in nature [than as a result of a laboratory accident or leak], and the need to stay ahead of such a threat is a primary reason for performing an experiment that might appear to be risky."

Fauci, 80, with his calm and measured manner of speech, has cultivated an image as a wise grandfatherly figure. Called "America's doctor" in the media, he has spent 50 years in public service, joining the NIH during the Vietnam War after studying as a physician. He was appointed director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984. Like many medical officials around the world, he became a household name during the pandemic.

Fauci's organisation was very familiar with the work undertaken at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, with the NIH and the National Science Foundation visiting the facility in the year prior to April 2018. In total, the NIH has funded at least 60 scientific projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology over the past decade. USAID, the federal aid agency, funded at least 16 (ten of which were jointly funded with the NIH), the Department of Health and Human Services funded three, the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and the China–US Collaborative Program on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases individually each funded one project in conjunction with the Wuhan Institute. Other institutions that frequently collaborate with the institute include the New York Blood Center, the University of North Carolina and University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. At the same time Obama cut off funding for gain-of-function research in America, US money was still flowing to China for risky coronavirus research.

Fauci defended the scientists who had undertaken the highly controversial gain-of-function research that had prompted the global debate, saying they had "conducted their research properly and under the safest and most secure conditions". The same research that some international scientists said should be banned, Fauci described as "important". "Within the research community, many have expressed concern that important research progress could come to a halt just because of the fear that someone, somewhere, might attempt to replicate these experiments sloppily," he wrote in his 2012 paper.

The mandatory "pause" or ban on gain-of-function research was inexplicably lifted under the Trump administration in 2017. No adequate explanation has been given for why this decision was made. There was no public debate. On December 19, 2017, the NIH announced it would resume funding gain-of-function research involving Mers, Sars, coronaviruses and influenza after a new "framework" had been developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.



Scientists from the Wuhan lab worked with bats carrying Sars-like viruses

SUNDAY TIMES INSIGHT

Senior administration officials told me Fauci did not raise the issue of kickstarting gain-of-function research with any senior figures in the White House. There was one White House meeting, which Fauci requested with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he raised the issue of gain-of-function research. "It kind of just got rammed through," a senior source claimed.

I asked the former national security adviser Robert O'Brien about this. "I was in meeting after meeting with Dr Fauci, and that never came up," he says. "I don't know if he alerted anyone. I never heard about it until I was out of office." Mike Pompeo, who was director of the CIA from 2017 to 2018, said he didn't know if Fauci got permission from anyone to re-start the dangerous research, particularly with regard to contributing funding via sub-grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Fauci didn't even tell his boss, Alex Azar, the health secretary, who only found out the US restriction on gain-of-function research had been lifted from media reports in 2021.

In hindsight we can clearly see that health authorities, the US government and international governments all ignored the warnings from eminent scientists, and allowed the dangerous scientific research to go ahead. The public was never brought into these debates. A pandemic is something that affects all of us — we have lost loved ones, battled serious illness, lost jobs, had our businesses and ways of life destroyed. While the origins of Covid-19 have not yet been established, it's clear this type of research carries grave risks.

What was even more terrifying was that not only was the NIH funding gain-of-function research in the US — but it was funding research in China, where it had no oversight and no way of knowing how safe the laboratories were where these risky experiments were taking place.

Extracted from What Really Happened in Wuhan: the Cover-Ups, the Conspiracies and the Classified Research by Sharri Markson, to be published by HarperCollins on September 30 at £20. Available to order now at amazon.co.uk

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013737
MORENS_NIH_025902
REL0000479653

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013738
MORENS_NIH_025903
REL0000479653

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:42 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:07:52 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** b6
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:23 AM
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Peter Daszak < b6 g >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio < b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >, Roberts, Rich < b6 >, David Morens < b6 >

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002896
MORENS_NIH_009412
REL0000479655

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Marek, Robert J <b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002897
MORENS_NIH_009413
REL0000479655

political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 9:06:37 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 9:05:22 AM -0400
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From: "Hotez, b6
To: Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Peter Daszak b6 Rich Roberts b6
Attachments: Outlook-gr2pyf23.png

Jeff's response and my response to Jeff

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6] >
Date: June 28, 2022 at 8:02:33 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs [b6] >
Cc: Juliana Bartels [b6] >, "Gaspar, Vitor" [b6] >, "Zinabou, Genet" [b6] >, "Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali" [b6] >, Alejandro Gaviria [b6] >, Gaviria Uribe Alejandro [b6] >, "Bottazzi, Maria Elena" [b6] >, [b6] Lara Aknin [b6] >, Chandrika Bahadur [b6] >, Lauren Barredo [b6] >, Chris Bullen [b6] >, gaby cuevas [b6] >, Andrew Haines [b6] >, Neena Joshi [b6] >, Ozge Karadag Karadag [b6] >, Phoebe Koundouri [b6] Gabriela [b6] >, "Morales, Andrés" [b6] >, [b6] Francesca Colombo [b6] >, Guillaume Lafortune [b6] >, Jeff Sachs [b6] >, Yanis Ben Amor [b6] >, Emma Torres [b6] >, George Laryea-Adjei [b6] >, Uyen Kim Huynh [b6] >, [b6] Vaira Vike Freiberga [b6] >, [b6] Kirsten Brosbøl [b6] Juan Pablo Cadena [b6] >, John Thwaites [b6] >, Jong-Koo Lee [b6] >, Booyuel Kim [b6] >, Muhammad Ali Pate [b6] >, Miriam Khamadi Were [b6] >, [b6] [b6] Marissa VanRy [b6] >, Felipe Larrain Bascuñan [b6] Susan Michie [b6] >, Jeffrey Lazarus [b6] >, Margaret Hellard [b6] >, Shweta Khandelwal [b6] >, "Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW)" [b6] >
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

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007129
MORENS_NIH_016263
REL0000479659

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs b6 wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

> Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] > wrote:

Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:

2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels b6
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor b6 >; Zinabou, Genet b6 >; Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali b6 Alejandro Gaviria b6 >; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro b6 >; Bottazzi, Maria Elena b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 S b6 >; Lara Aknin b6 Chandrika Bahadur b6 >; Lauren Barredo b6 >; Chris Bullen b6 >; gaby cuevas b6 >; Andrew Haines b6 >; Neena Joshi b6 >; Ozge Karadag Karadag b6 >; Phoebe Koundouri b6 Gabriela b6 >; Morales, Andrés b6 >; b6 b6 Francesca Colombo b6 >; Guillaume Lafortune b6 >; Jeff Sachs b6 Yanis Ben Amor b6 Emma Torres b6 >; George Laryea-Adjei b6 >; Uyen Kim Huynh b6 >; b6 b6 >; Vaira Vike Freiberga b6 b6 b6 >; Kirsten Brosbøl b6 >; b6 b6 >; Juan Pablo Cadena b6 >; John Thwaites b6 >; Jong-Koo Lee b6 Booyuel Kim b6 Muhammad Ali Pate b6 >; Miriam Khamadi Were

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007132
MORENS_NIH_016266
REL0000479659

b6 >; b6 b6 >; jgallen@hsph.harvard.edu b6 >; Marissa VanRy b6 >; Felipe Larrain Bascuñan b6 Susan Michie b6 Jeffrey Lazarus b6 >; Margaret Hellard <margaret.hellard@burnet.edu.au >; Shweta Khandelwal b6 >; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) b6 >
Cc: Juliana Bartels b6
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie
--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
b6

Date: Thu, 16 Mar 2023 10:14:34 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 16 Mar 2023 10:14:29 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Peter Daszak b6 >;
CC: Alison Andre b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 b6 >;

Jerry:

OK with me. As for timing. I can be flexible on Thursday 23rd all day and Friday 24th after noon.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:02 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Alison Andre b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Peter, this looks like interesting material. Has anybody seen the material posted by Kristian Andersen and Eddie Holmes?

In addition, I do think we need to move on interviews to advance the coalition idea. Peter D is trying to organize a meeting in NY on April 27th and he and I talked with Keith Martin who is the ED of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, and he will join us.

So, after some silence, let me propose the follow for the 3 calls I have set up, pending the details.

Michael Imperiale and Arturo Casadevall: me and Peter Hotez
Mary Woolley: me and Rich Roberts
Carlos del Rio (our link in to NAM): me and Peter Daszak

If that's OK with the designees I will work with Alison to organize a call to each, with the intent of talking through the idea and determining if any of them can join us in NY (or maybe by Zoom if necessary?). So please do respond back at your earliest convenience and if you have some ideas of open windows later next week or the week after please add the dates and times you can

do it.
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens < [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio <J [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic

https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2023/03/covid- origins-research-raccoon-dogs-wuhan-market-lab-leak/673390/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 4:42:06 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 4:42:04 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>;

And I still haven't heard back from Sanjay, and I doubt I will.

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: RE: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story

He still does surgery occasionally. I've been on his podcast twice during this pandemic and he seems intelligent. Like others who've been duped, he thinks that somehow Redfield had access to secret info on the lab. Given the dross that the State Dept was putting out under Trump, it's just innuendo and hearsay.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story

I had not even realized he left Wayne State and went to Emory. In any case, it seems like now he is full time on TV, so I doubt he is fixing any brain lesions, least of all his own. d

On 4/13/2021 11:22 AM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> I was to quick to think I had figured out a direct route. I received an autoreply providing a phone number for neurosurgery questions and an email for somebody at CNN. While I think Gupta might have a brain lesion I chose to forward my email to the CNN person with the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013851
MORENS_NIH_026315
REL0000479670

request that they bring my message to his attention. I am not confident they will.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens <b6>
Subject: FYI: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story

Thanks for the report David. My immediate reaction was to try to get to Gupta and then I realized I might find his contact information on the Emory faculty directory. My message to him is below.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:15 AM
To: sanjay.gupta@emory.edu
Subject: Origins of CoV-2

Dear Dr. Gupta,

You totally missed the point with your comments about the origins of CoV-2. Whether or not the virus was even in the Wuhan Institute of Virology or there was an accidental release, CoV-2 originated as a spillover from bats and ultimately to humans. To prevent or mitigate the response to the next spillover we need to know as much about this true origin story as possible. By buying in to the acrimonious stories about the lab origin you, and others like Dr. Redfield, make it increasingly difficult if not impossible for anybody or any organization to gain the cooperation of the Chinese government. Unwittingly you have played the wrong card – a joker and it's not funny because it has major consequences for the world. Instead of allowing WHO to pursue further work with China, including the bat origins and the lab release story you, Redfield and the real conspiracy believers have done immeasurable harm.

Think about it – you are an intelligent individual – and do better to clarify and not further muddy the sewage left over from the behavior of the U.S. government toward China about the pandemic throughout 2020. I urge you to use your credibility as a physician and reporter positively and productively.
Sincerely,

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and International Health
Boston University School of Medicine
Associate Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
620 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02118

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:32 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 7:27 PM
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >, Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 David Morens
b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei
Chmura b6 >; Peter Daszak
b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Peter:

That’s good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Peter Daszak
b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens b6 >
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]" b6
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair

labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for Mother Jones, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured."

After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as

a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004040
MORENS_NIH_010994
REL0000479671

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004041
MORENS_NIH_010995
REL0000479671

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Wed, 13 Apr 2022 10:37:40 AM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 13 Apr 2022 10:37:37 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC:	Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 ;

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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

I spoke with Richard Lifton, Charlie Rice, Michel Nussenzweig, Jeff Friedman, Cory Bargmann today about this at my Rockefeller Univ visit. They are starting to get it. In the meantime, maybe we should express our concerns to Victor?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 4:52 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: b6
Cc: Kim, Se b6
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

The information contained in this transmission is confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 7:32:04 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 7:31:11 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To:	Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Peter Daszak b6
CC:	Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; Outlook-jk35vpxu.png

OK will defer to Rich, while the paper is abominable and should be retracted, my hunch is that simply demanding retraction will look like we're attempting to whitewash, having a thorough scientific rebuttal and then asking for retraction might be better? Not sure?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 6:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003348
MORENS_NIH_009898
REL0000479676

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: David Morens <b6> Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003349
MORENS_NIH_009899
REL0000479676

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003350
MORENS_NIH_009900
REL0000479676

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003351
MORENS_NIH_009901
REL0000479676

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003352
MORENS_NIH_009902
REL0000479676

Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

"The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

"These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003353
MORENS_NIH_009903
REL0000479676

Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
>

Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; David Morens <b6>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003355
MORENS_NIH_009905
REL0000479676

ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003356
MORENS_NIH_009906
REL0000479676

sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003357
MORENS_NIH_009907
REL0000479676

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



Read Our Complete Coverage The Coronavirus Crisis

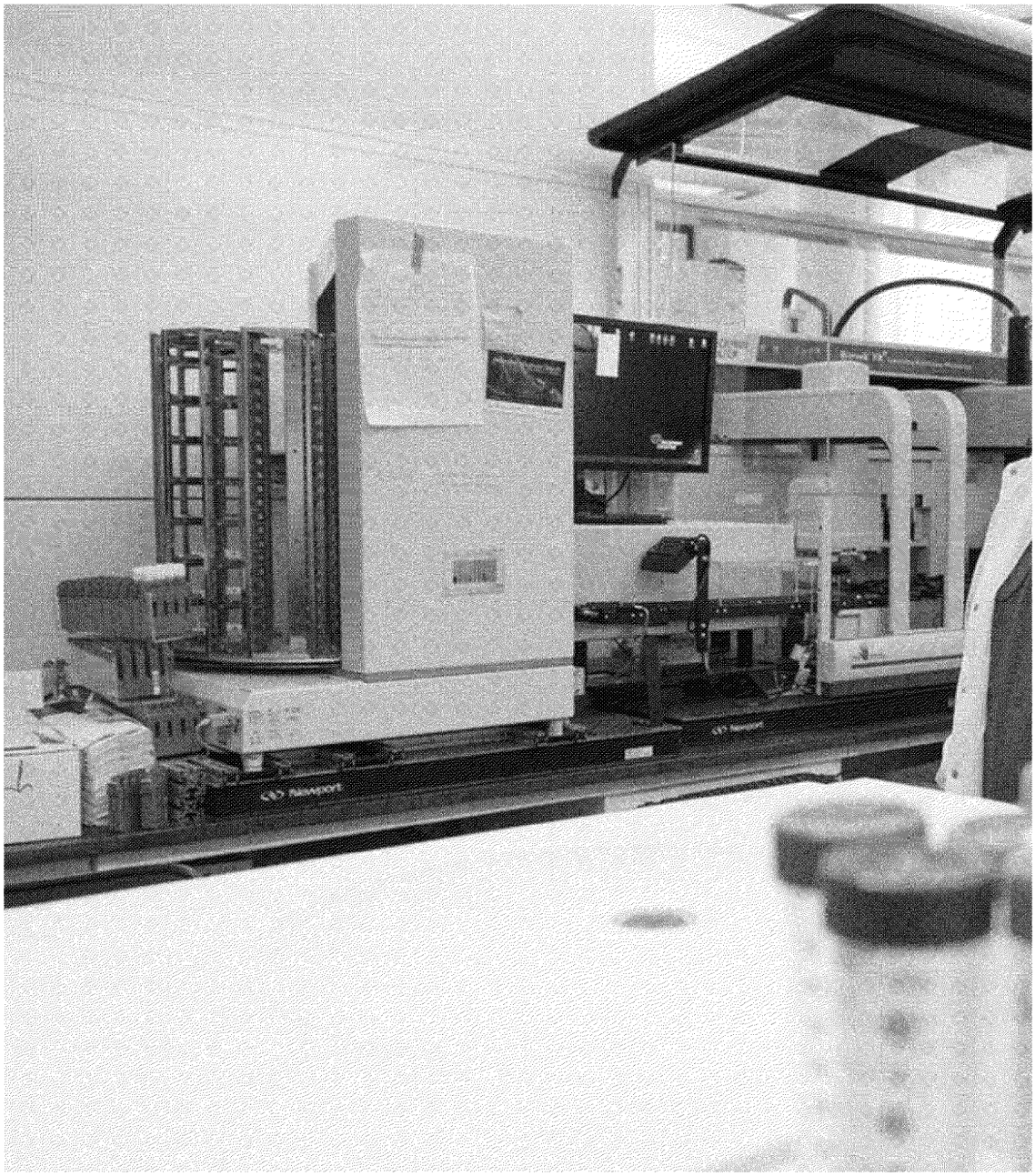
Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003358
MORENS_NIH_009908
REL0000479676

of its known importance to lung function. “For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously,” they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC’s Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003359
MORENS_NIH_009909
REL0000479676



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003360
MORENS_NIH_009910
REL0000479676

coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

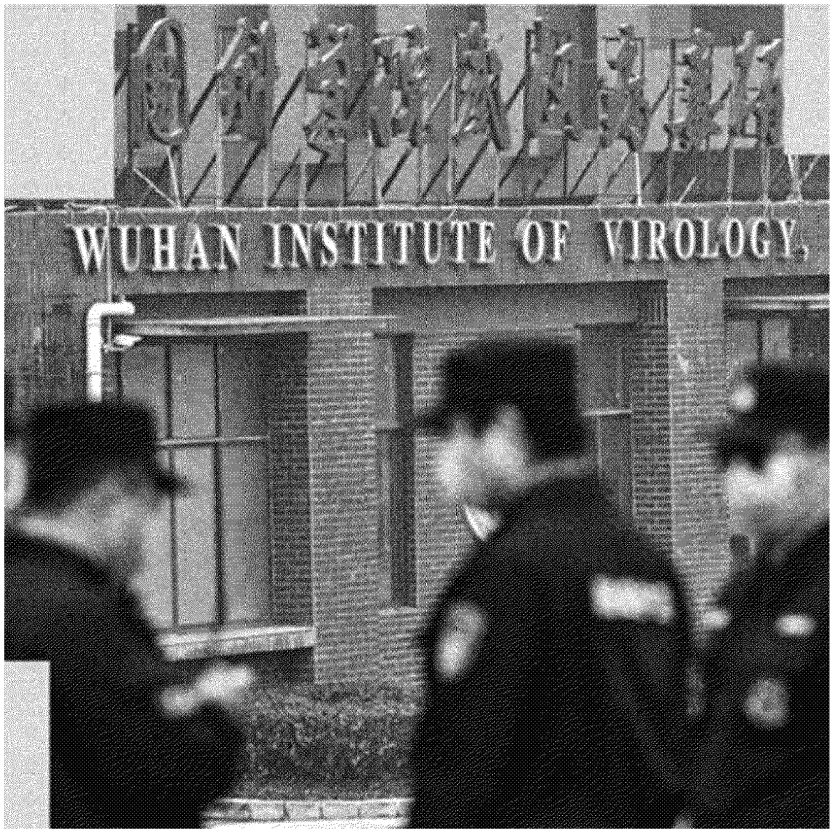
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003362
MORENS_NIH_009912
REL0000479676

RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003363
MORENS_NIH_009913
REL0000479676



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003364
MORENS_NIH_009914
REL0000479676

an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003365
MORENS_NIH_009915
REL0000479676

look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003366
MORENS_NIH_009916
REL0000479676

laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

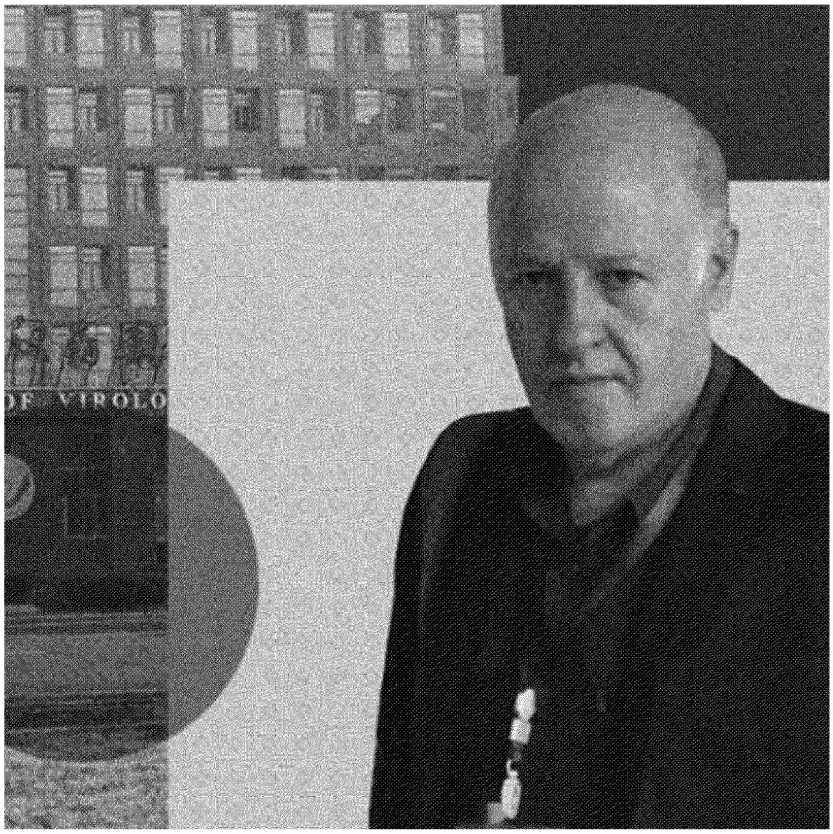
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003368
MORENS_NIH_009918
REL0000479676

public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003369
MORENS_NIH_009919
REL0000479676

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: b6
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <b6>
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens b6 > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Em
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New Yo
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappe
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the m
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted ar
packages were withdrawn upon reque
included one requested by the submit
the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003373
MORENS_NIH_009923
REL0000479676

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens < b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; peter hotez < b6 >; Roberts, Rich <
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** b6
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b6

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003374
MORENS_NIH_009924
REL0000479676

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg < NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



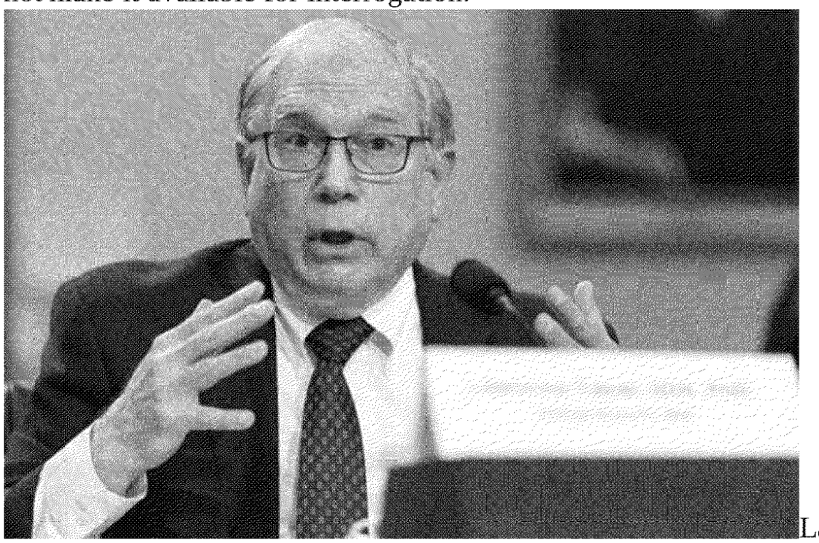
National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

“There’s no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that,” Tabek said. “If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation.”



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

“So wait, you have the information still?” Beutler followed up.

“We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed,” Tabak explained. “And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it.”

“So you don’t have the information anymore?” Beutler asked.

“We do. We never erase the information. We keep it,” Tabak clarified.

“So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?” the congresswoman followed up.

“That’s correct,” he said.

“OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?” Beutler asked.

“In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that’s the most difficult for people to access,” Tabak replied. “The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it’s withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that’s how it’s done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information.”



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

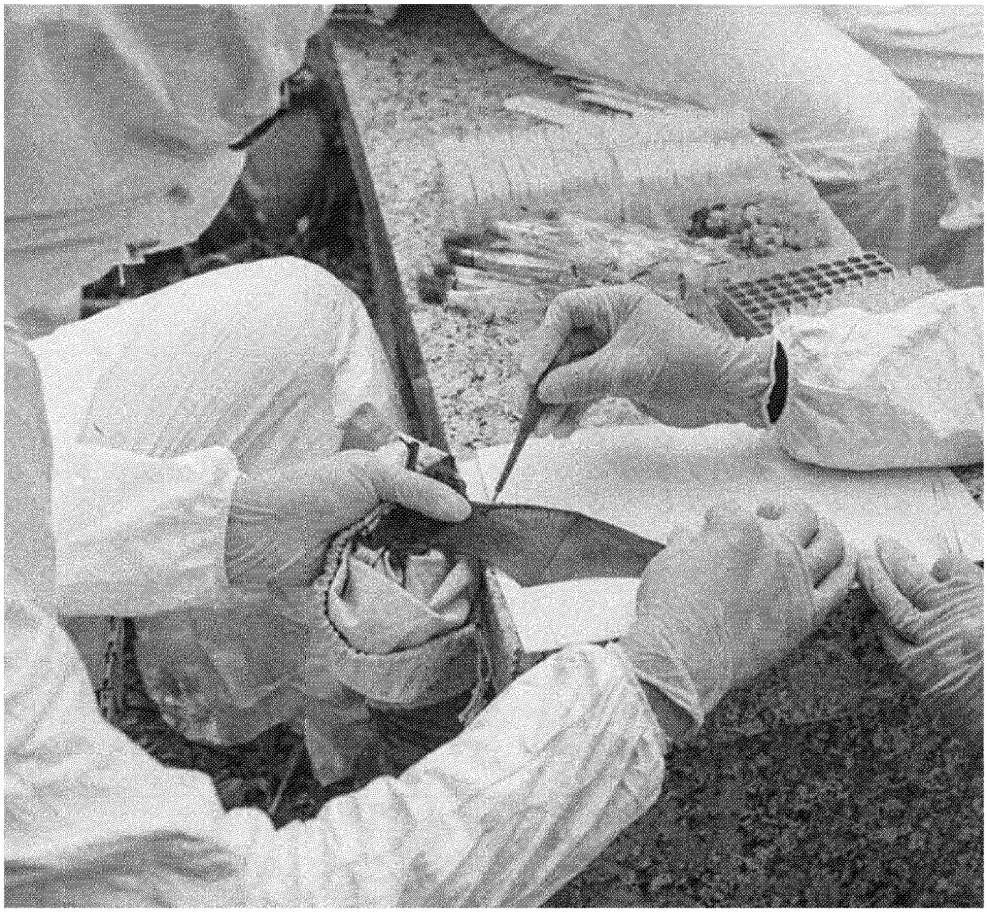
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

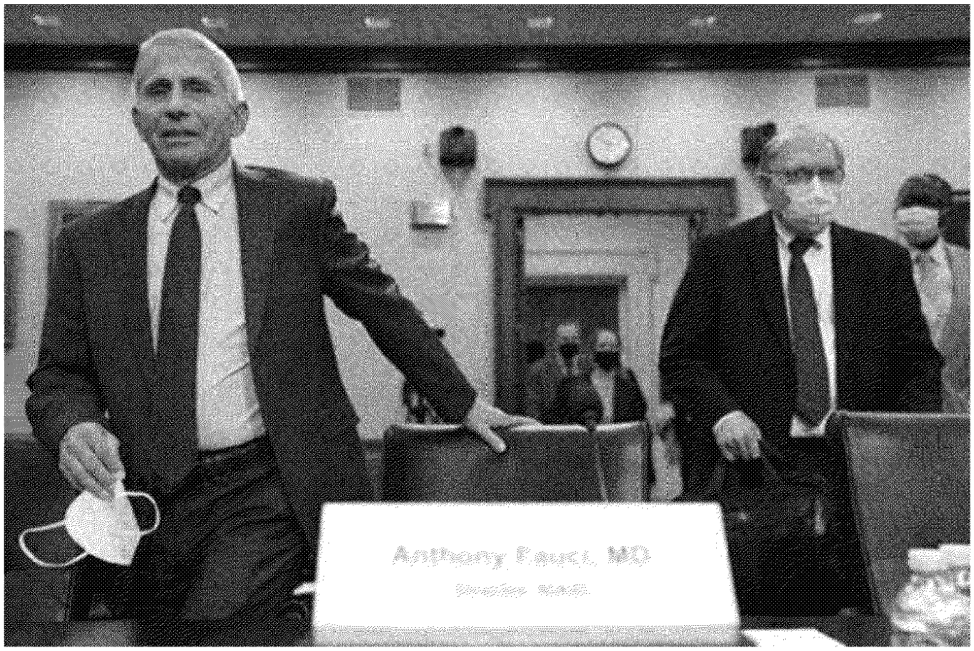
Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE
Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."
China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.
The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003378
MORENS_NIH_009928
REL0000479676



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s)and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended

recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Thu, 8 Jul 2021 5:28:39 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 8 Jul 2021 5:28:36 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image005.png

He says we should discuss by phone. I will follow up with him on that.

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Good – because they lay into him as well.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

I just emailed Jeremy Farrar to ask him WTF is going on with BMJ?

From: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; David Morens b6
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

I think this is a really good move. The BMJ was a well-respected journal that also did 'news-ey' type articles for physicians, but this is just a garbage pro-lab leak innuendo-filled piece that openly attacks EcoHealth and my name. The following comments are not factual reporting – more hype and character assassination, all of them implying my intent to act nefariously:

"Daszak effectively silenced debate"

"Some of the scientists in this area very quickly closed ranks."

"Daszak's behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating the statement in the *Lancet*"

"as journalists helped to amplify Daszak's message and to silence scientific and public debate."

"This, he says, is why they began marching in unison behind Daszak."

"WHO and the *Lancet* both launched investigations last year (box 2), but Daszak was involved in both, and neither has made significant progress."

Pretty offensive stuff and a regurgitation of earlier crap written by the same author on the web. I guess BMJ gets value out of this because it directly criticizes tht Lancet – their main competitor. What a ridiculous conflict of interest they're displaying themselves!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Do any of you know what has become of Peter Smith, a former editor of BMJ? I would like to contact him about what has happened to a formerly quality journal, in fact more highly regarded than the Lancet.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020883
MORENS_NIH_041648
REL0000479680

Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Really disappointed they gave space to this scheister – he's been trolling the internet darkweb with lab leak theories for at least a year.

Peter Hotez commented that BMJ has been putting out anti-vaxx articles too recently…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry (b6) <b6>
Subject: FW: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020884
MORENS_NIH_041649
REL0000479680

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:43 AM
Subject: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

BMJ 2021; 374 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n1656 (Published 08 July 2021) Cite this as: BMJ 2021;374:n1656 Paul D Thacker, investigative journalist
- *Madrid*

- thackerpd{at}gmail.com
  Twitter @thackerpd

The theory that SARS-CoV-2 may have originated in a lab was considered a debunked conspiracy theory, but some experts are revisiting it amid calls for a new, more thorough investigation. **Paul Thacker** explains the dramatic U turn and the role of contemporary science journalism

For most of 2020, the notion that SARS-CoV-2 may have originated in a lab in Wuhan, China, was treated as a thoroughly debunked conspiracy theory. Only conservative news media sympathetic to President Donald Trump and a few lonely reports dared suggest otherwise. But that all changed in the early months of 2021, and today most outlets across the political spectrum agree: the "lab leak" scenario deserves serious investigation.

Understanding this dramatic U turn on arguably the most important question for preventing a future pandemic, and why it took nearly a year to happen, involves understanding contemporary science journalism.

A conspiracy to label critics as conspiracy theorists

Scientists and reporters contacted by *The BMJ* say that objective consideration of covid-19's origins went awry early in the pandemic, as researchers who were funded to study viruses with pandemic potential launched a campaign labelling the lab leak hypothesis as a "conspiracy theory."

A leader in this campaign has been Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit organisation given millions of dollars in grants by the US federal government to research viruses for pandemic preparedness.[1] Over the years EcoHealth Alliance has subcontracted out its federally supported research to various scientists and groups, including around $600 000 (£434 000; €504 000) to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.[1]

Shortly after the pandemic began, Daszak effectively silenced debate over the possibility of a lab leak with a February 2020 statement in the *Lancet*.[2] "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that covid-19 does not have a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020885
MORENS_NIH_041650
REL0000479680

natural origin," said the letter, which listed Daszak as one of 27 coauthors. Daszak did not respond to repeated requests for comment from *The BMJ*.

"It's become a label you pin on something you don't agree with," says Nicholas Wade, a science writer who has worked at *Nature*, *Science*, and the *New York Times*. "It's ridiculous, because the lab escape scenario invokes an accident, which is the opposite of a conspiracy."

But the effort to brand serious consideration of a lab leak a "conspiracy theory" only ramped up. Filippa Lentzos, codirector of the Centre for Science and Security Studies at King's College, London, told the *Wall Street Journal*, "Some of the scientists in this area very quickly closed ranks."[3] She added, "There were people that did not talk about this, because they feared for their careers. They feared for their grants."

Daszak had support. After he wrote an essay for the *Guardian* in June 2020 attacking the former head of MI6 for saying that the pandemic could have "started as an accident," Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust and co-signer of the *Lancet* letter, promoted Daszak's essay on Twitter, saying that Daszak was "always worth reading."[4]

Daszak's behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating the statement in the *Lancet* came to light in November 2020 in emails obtained through freedom of information requests by the watchdog group US Right To Know.

"Please note that this statement will not have EcoHealth Alliance logo on it and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization or person," wrote Daszak in a February email, while sending around a draft of the statement for signatories.[5] In another email, Daszak considered removing his name from the statement "so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way."[6]

Several of the 27 scientists who signed the letter Daszak circulated did so using other professional affiliations and omitted reporting their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.[3]

For Richard Ebright, professor of molecular biology at Rutgers University in New Jersey and a biosafety expert, scientific journals were complicit in helping to shout down any mention of a lab leak. "That means *Nature*, *Science*, and the *Lancet*," he says. In recent months he and dozens of academics have signed several open letters rejecting conspiracy theory accusations and calling for an open investigation of the pandemic's origins.[7][8][9]

"It's very clear at this time that the term 'conspiracy theory' is a useful term for defaming an idea you disagree with," says Ebright, referring to scientists and journalists who have wielded the term. "They have been successful until recently in selling that narrative to many in the media."

The *Lancet*'s editor in chief, Richard Horton, did not respond to repeated requests for comment but, after *The BMJ* had sent him questions, the *Lancet* expanded Daszak's conflicts of interest on the February statement and recused him from working on its task force looking into the pandemic's origin.[10][11]

The *Lancet* letter ultimately helped to guide almost a year of reporting, as journalists helped to amplify Daszak's message and to silence scientific and public debate. "We're in the midst of the social media misinformation age, and these rumours and conspiracy theories have real consequences," Daszak told *Science*.[12] Months later in *Nature*, he again criticised "conspiracies" that the virus could have come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology and complained about "politically motivated organisations" requesting his emails.[13]

That summer *Scientific American*, one of the oldest and best known popular science magazines in America, published a complimentary profile of Daszak's colleague, Shi Zhengli, a centre director at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which has been funded by EcoHealth Alliance.[14]

EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology earned additional sympathetic reporting after the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) cancelled its grant to EcoHealth Alliance in April last year—allegedly on President Trump's order—because of its ties to Wuhan, a decision protested by 77 Nobel laureates and 31 scientific societies.[15] (The NIH has subsequently awarded EcoHealth Alliance new funding.)

Efforts to characterise the lab leak scenario as unworthy of serious consideration were far reaching, sometimes affecting reporting that had first appeared well before the covid-19 pandemic. For example, in March 2020 *Nature Medicine* added an editor's note ("Scientists believe that an animal is the most likely source of the coronavirus") to a 2015 paper on the creation of a hybrid version of a SARS virus, co-written by Shi.[16]

Wade explains, "Science journalists differ a lot from other journalists in that they are far less sceptical of their sources and they see their main role as simply to explain science to the public." This, he says, is why they began marching in unison behind Daszak.

The U turn

By the end of 2020, just a handful of journalists had dared to seriously discuss the possibility of a lab leak. In September, *Boston* magazine reported on a preprint that found the virus unlikely to have come from the Wuhan seafood market, as Daszak has argued, and that it seemed too well adapted to humans to have arisen naturally. However, the story failed to garner much attention, similarly to a little noticed investigative report by the Associated Press in December that exposed how the Chinese government was clamping down on research into covid-19's origins.

In January this year, *New York* magazine ran a sprawling story detailing how the pandemic could have started with a leak from the lab in Wuhan. The hypothetical scenario: "SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes covid-19, began its existence inside a bat, then it learned how to infect people in a claustrophobic mine shaft, and then it was made more infectious in one or more laboratories, perhaps as part of a scientist's well-intentioned but risky effort to create a broad-spectrum vaccine." Scientists and their media

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020886
MORENS_NIH_041651
REL0000479680

allies swiftly criticised the article.

But mainstream outlets from the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post* are now treating the lab leak hypothesis as a worthy question, one to be answered with a serious investigation. In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, Shi denied that her lab was ever involved in "gain of function" experiments (box 1) that enhance a virus's virulence. But the newspaper reported that her lab had been involved in experiments that altered the transmissibility of viruses, alongside interviews with scientists who said that far more transparency was necessary to determine the truth of SARS-CoV-2's origins.17

Box 1

What is "gain of function" research?

After two teams genetically tweaked the H5N1 avian flu virus in 2011 to make it more transmissible in mammals, biosafety experts voiced concerns about "gain of function" research—experimental research that involves altering microbes in ways that change their transmissibility, pathogenicity, or host range.

In the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* in 2012, Lynn Klotz predicted an 80% chance that a leak of a potential pandemic pathogen would occur sometime in the next 12 years. Two years later a Harvard epidemiologist, Marc Lipsitch, founded the Cambridge Working Group to lobby against such experiments.

At that time, three safety lapses involving dangerous pathogens led to a safety crackdown at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lipsitch later argued in 2018 that the release of such a pathogen would "lead to global spread of a virulent virus, a biosafety incident on a scale never before seen."

Gain of function research was briefly paused because of these concerns, although critics debate as to when it restarted. For more than a decade, scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology have been discovering coronaviruses in bats in southern China and bringing them back to their lab for gain of function research, to learn how to deal with such a deadly virus should it arise in nature.

The closest known relative of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was found in a region of China almost 1000 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology—yet the pandemic apparently started in Wuhan. Biosafety experts have noted that lab leaks are common but rarely reported, as hundreds of lab accidents had happened in the US alone.27

RETURN TO TEXT

Two major events are probably responsible for the media's change in tune. First, Trump was no longer president. Because Trump had said that the virus could have come from a Wuhan lab, Daszak and others used him as a convenient foil to attack their critics. But the framing of the lab leak hypothesis as a partisan issue was harder to sustain after Trump left the White House.

Second, after months of negotiation the Chinese government finally allowed the World Health Organization to come to Wuhan and investigate the pandemic's origin. But in January 2021 WHO, which included Daszak on the team, returned with no evidence that the virus had arisen through natural spill-over.18 More worryingly, members were allowed only a few hours of supervised access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The White House then released a statement making clear that it did not trust China's propaganda denying that the virus could have come from one of the country's labs. "We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the covid-19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach them," said the statement. "It is imperative that this report be independent, with expert findings free from intervention or alteration by the Chinese government."

The following month the *Washington Post* editorial board called for an open and transparent investigation of the virus's origins, highlighting Shi's experiments with bat coronaviruses that were genetically very similar to the one that caused the pandemic.19 It asked, "Could a worker have gotten infected or inadvertent leakage have touched off the outbreak in Wuhan?" The *Wall Street Journal*, citing a US intelligence document, recently reported that three Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers were admitted to hospital in November 2019.20

To follow any US financial ties and to better understand how the pandemic started, Republicans have launched investigations of government agencies that fund coronavirus research, and one investigative committee has sent a letter to Daszak at EcoHealth Alliance demanding that he turn over documents. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans and Democrats have started to discuss an independent investigation of the virus's origins.

A hard truth to swallow

The growing tendency to treat the lab leak scenario as worthy of serious investigation has put some reporters on the defensive. After Robert Redfield, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, appeared on CNN in March, *Scientific American*'s editor in chief, Laura Helmuth, tweeted, "On CNN, former CDC director Robert Redfield shared the conspiracy theory that the virus came from the Wuhan lab." The following day, *Scientific American* ran an essay calling the lab leak theory "evidence free." And a week later a *Nature* reporter, Amy Maxmen, labelled the idea that the virus could have leaked from a lab as "conjecture."

Helmuth did not respond to questions from *The BMJ*.

Some media outlets have attempted to justify their past reporting about the lab leak hypothesis as simply a matter of tracking a "scientific consensus" which, they say, has now changed. *Vox* posted an erratum noting, "Since this piece was originally published in March 2020, scientific consensus has shifted."

The "scientific consensus" argument does not sit well with David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, California. "We can't even begin to talk about a consensus other than a consensus that we don't know [the origins of SARS-CoV-2]," he recently told the *Washington Post*.21

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020887
MORENS_NIH_041652
REL0000479680

A year lost

While the narrative took months to change in the media, several high profile intelligence sources had treated the lab leak theory seriously from early on. In April 2020, Avril Haines joined two other former deputy directors of the Central Intelligence Agency to write an essay in *Foreign Policy* asking, "To what extent did the Chinese government misrepresent the scope and scale of the epidemic?"[22] A week later, one of the former intelligence officials who wrote that essay gave similar quotes to *Politico*.

Ignoring these early warnings led to a year of biased, failed reporting, says Wade. "They didn't question what their sources were saying," he says of the reporters who helped to sell the conspiracy theory narrative to the public. "That is the simple explanation for this phenomenon."

An impartial, credible investigation?

As the news media scramble to correct and reflect on what went wrong with nearly a year of reporting, the episode has also highlighted quality control issues at the ubiquitous "fact checking" services.

Prominent outlets such as *PolitiFact*[23] and FactCheck.org[24] have added editor's notes to pieces that previously "debunked" the idea that the virus was created in a lab or could have been bioengineered—softening their position to one of an open question that is "in dispute." For almost a year Facebook sought to control misinformation by banning stories suggesting that the coronavirus was man made. After renewed interest in the virus's origin, Facebook lifted the ban.[25]

Whether a credible investigation will be made into the lab leak scenario remains to be seen. WHO and the *Lancet* both launched investigations last year (box 2), but Daszak was involved in both, and neither has made significant progress.

Box 2

Timeline

2019

September Weeks before the pandemic erupts, Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome Trust) and Anthony Fauci (US National Institutes of Health; NIH) help oversee a World Health Organization report highlighting an "increasing risk of global pandemic from a pathogen escaping after being engineered in a lab"

November Three researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology are admitted to hospital, says a previously undisclosed US intelligence document reported by the *Wall Street Journal* on 23 May 2021

31 December China notifies WHO of "cases of pneumonia of unknown aetiology" in Wuhan City

2020

1 February Jeremy Farrar holds a teleconference with Anthony Fauci and others to discuss the outbreak's origins

6 February A commentary from Chinese researchers based in Wuhan, arguing that "the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan," is posted and later removed from ResearchGate (the user account "Botao Xiao" is also deleted)

19 February An open letter is published in the *Lancet* from 27 scientists including Peter Daszak and Jeremy Farrar, who "strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that covid-19 does not have a natural origin"

19 February*Science* magazine reports: "Scientists 'strongly condemn' rumors and conspiracy theories about origin of coronavirus outbreak," quoting Daszak as saying, "We're in the midst of the social media misinformation age, and these rumors and conspiracy theories have real consequences, including threats of violence that have occurred to our colleagues in China."

22 February*New York Post* publishes an article by a China scholar arguing that "coronavirus may have leaked from a lab"—subsequently censored by Facebook

6 March Kristian Andersen (Scripps Research Institute) thanks Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome), Anthony Fauci (NIH), and Francis Collins (NIH) "for your advice and leadership as we have been working through the SARS-CoV-2 'origins' paper." The paper is published on 17 March in *Nature Medicine* and states, "Our analyses clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus."

24 April NIH abruptly cuts funding to EcoHealth Alliance, allegedly on President Trump's order

28 April Three former US intelligence agents write in *Foreign Policy* asking whether the virus emerged from nature or escaped from a Chinese lab

21 May*New York Times* depicts the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a victim of "conspiracy theories"

27 May*Nature* reports the lab leak hypothesis as "coronavirus misinformation" and "false information"

8 June The science magazine *Undark* reports that the lab leak is a conspiracy theory "that's been broadly discredited"

30 December Associated Press investigation finds documents from March 2020 showing how Beijing has shaped and censored research into the origins of SARS-CoV-2

2021

February Facebook places warning on an article by Ian Birrell about the origins of covid-19. Facebook says that these warnings reduce article viewership by 95%

13 February Jake Sullivan, US national security adviser, expresses "deep concerns" about WHO's covid-19 investigation, calling on China to be more transparent

March*Washington Post* calls for serious investigations of the lab leak hypothesis

30 March WHO releases a report on its investigation into the origins of covid-19, listing the lab leak as least likely of the possible scenarios considered. Hours earlier, WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, acknowledged that the lab leak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020888
MORENS_NIH_041653
REL0000479680

hypothesis should "remain on the table" and called for a more extensive probe
30 March The US, Australian, Japanese, Canadian, UK, and other governments express concern over WHO's investigation and call for "transparent and independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence"
26 May Facebook lifts its ban on posts referencing the lab leak hypothesis
RETURN TO TEXT
In recent weeks, several high profile scientists who once denigrated the idea that the virus could have come from a lab have made small steps into demanding an open investigation of the pandemic's origin.
The NIH's director, Francis Collins, said in a recent interview, "The Chinese government should be on notice that we have to have answers to questions that have not been answered about those people who got sick in November who worked in the lab and about those lab notebooks that have not been examined." He added, "If they really want to be exonerated from this claim of culpability, then they have got to be transparent."26
But the nature of this investigation has still not been decided.

Footnotes

- Competing interests: I am paid by various media outlets for journalism stories and consult part time for a non-profit institute focused on brain disorders. I run a newsletter called the *Disinformation Chronicle*.
- Provenance and peer review: Commissioned, not externally peer reviewed.

This article is made freely available for use in accordance with BMJ's website terms and conditions for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic or until otherwise determined by BMJ. You may use, download and print the article for any lawful, non-commercial purpose (including text and data mining) provided that all copyright notices and trade marks are retained.
https://bmj.com/coronavirus/usage

References

- ↵
  USA Spending. Project Grant FAIN R01AI110964. https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AI110964_7529

- ↵
  - Calisher C,
  - Carroll D,
  - Colwell R,
  - et al

  . *Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19. Lancet2020;395:e42-3. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30418-9. pmid:32087122*
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  O'Neal A. A scientist who said no to covid groupthink. *Wall Street J* 2021 Jun 11. https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-scientist-who-said-no-to-covid-groupthink-11623430659

- ↵
  Farrar J. Twitter. 9 Jun 2020. https://twitter.com/JeremyFarrar/status/1270354946295246848

- ↵
  Daszak P. Email. 6 Feb 2020. https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The_Lancet_Emails_Daszak-2.6.20.pdf

- ↵
  Baric R. Email. 6 Feb 2020. https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Baric_Daszak_email.pdf

- ↵
  Gorman J. Some scientists question W.H.O. inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic's origins. *New York Times* 2021 Mar 4. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/04/health/covid-virus-origins.html

- ↵
  Calls for further inquiries into coronavirus origins. *New York Times* 2021 Apr 7. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/04/07/science/virus-inquiries-pandemic-origins.html?referringSource=articleShare

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020889
MORENS_NIH_041654
REL0000479680

- ↵
  - doi:10.1126/science.abj0016
  - Bloom JD,
  - Chan YA,
  - Baric RS,
  - et al

  . *Investigate the origins of COVID-19. Science2021;372:694doi:10.1126/science.abj0016.* *https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6543/694.1* *.pmid:33986172*
  OpenUrlFREE Full Text

- ↵
  Addendum: competing interests and the origins of SARS-CoV-2. Lancet2021;397:2449-50. *https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-* *6736(21)01377-5/fulltextdoi:10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01377-5.*
  OpenUrlCrossRef

- ↵
  Lancet Covid-19 Commission. Origins, early spread of the pandemic, and one health solutions to future pandemic threats. https://covid19commission.org/origins- of-the-pandemic

- ↵
  - Cohen J

  . *Scientists "strongly condemn" rumors and conspiracy theories about origin of coronavirus outbreak. Science2020. doi:10.1126/science.abb3730.*
  OpenUrlCrossRef

- ↵
  - Subbaraman N

  . *'Heinous!': Coronavirus researcher shut down for Wuhan-lab link slams new funding restrictions. Nature2020. doi:10.1038/d41586-020-02473-4. pmid:32826989*
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  Qiu J. How China's "Bat Woman" hunted down viruses from SARS to the new coronavirus. *Scientific American* 2020 Jun 1. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how- chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/

- ↵
  Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant. *Science* 2020 May 21. https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/preposterous- 77-nobel-laureates-blast-nih-decision-cancel-coronavirus-grant-demand

- ↵
  - Menachery VD,
  - Yount BL Jr.,
  - Debbink K,
  - et al

  . *A SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence. Nat Med2015;21:1508-13. doi:10.1038/nm.3985.* *https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985* *. pmid:26552008*
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  A top virologist in China, at center of a pandemic storm, speaks out. *New York Times* 2021 Jun 15. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/14/world/asia/china- covid-wuhan-lab-leak.html

- ↵
  World Health Organization. Mission summary: WHO field visit to Wuhan, China 20-21 January 2020. 22 Jan 2020. https://www.who.int/china/news/detail/22- 01-2020-field-visit-wuhan-china-jan-2020

-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020890
MORENS_NIH_041655
REL0000479680

- ↵
  Opinion: The WHO needs to start over in investigating the origins of the coronavirus. *Washington Post* 2021 Mar 6. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global- opinions/the-who-needs-to-start-over-in-investigating-the-origins-of-the-coronavirus/2021/03/05/6f3d5a0e- 7de9-11eb-a976-c028a4215c78_story.html

- ↵
  Gordon MR, Strobel WP, Hinshaw D. Intelligence on sick staff at Wuhan lab fuels debate on covid-19 origin. *Wall Street J* 2021 May 23. https://www.wsj.com/articles/intelligence- on-sick-staff-at-wuhan-lab-fuels-debate-on-covid-19-origin-11621796228

- ↵
  Dou E, Kuo L. A scientist adventurer and China's "Bat Woman" are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look. *Washington Post* 2021 Jun 3. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/coronavirus- bats-china-wuhan/2021/06/02/772ef984- beb2-11eb-922a-c40c9774bc48_story.html

- ↵
  Morell M, Haines A, Cohen DS. Trump's politicization of US intelligence agencies could end in disaster. *Foreign Policy* 2020 Apr 28. https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/28/trump- cia-intimidation-politicization-us-intelligence-agencies-could-end-in-disaster/

- ↵
  Archived fact-check: Tucker Carlson guest airs debunked conspiracy theory that covid-19 was created in a lab. *PolitiFact* 2021 May 17. https://www.politifact.com/li- meng-yan-fact-check/

- ↵
  Fichera A. Report resurrects baseless claim that coronavirus was bioengineered. FactCheck.org. 17 Sep 2020. https://www.factcheck.org/2020/09/report- resurrects-baseless-claim-that-coronavirus-was-bioengineered/

- ↵
  Lima C. Facebook no longer treating "man-made" covid as a crackpot idea. *Politico* 2021 May 26. https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/facebook- ban-covid-man-made-491053

- ↵
  Trump administration's hunt for pandemic "lab leak" went down many paths and came up with no smoking gun. *Washington Post* 2021 Jun 15. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national- security/us-intelligence-wuhan-lab-coronavirus-origin/2021/06/15/2fc2425e- ca24-11eb-afd0-9726f7ec0ba6_story.html

- ↵
  Young A. Could an accident have caused covid-19? Why the Wuhan lab-leak theory shouldn't be dismissed. *USA Today* 2021 Mar 22. https://eu.usatoday.com/in- depth/opinion/2021/03/22/why- covid-lab-leak-theory-wuhan-shouldnt-dismissed-column/4765985001/

View Abstract

- Tweet Widget
- Facebook Like

See other articles in issue 8299

Article tools

PDF0 responses

- Respond to this article
- Print
- Alerts & updates
- Citation tools
- Request permissions

- Author citation

- Add article to BMJ Portfolio

Email to a friend

Topics

- Infectious diseases

- UK jobs
- International jobs

Grove House Surgery (Shepton Mallet, Somerset): Salaried GP
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry CMHT
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Inpatient
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Liaison
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Community General Adult Psychiatry - Bournemouth West
View more

This week's poll

Read related article
See previous polls
Back to top

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020892
MORENS_NIH_041657
REL0000479680

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 31 May 2022 7:14:34 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 31 May 2022 7:14:28 PM -0400
Subject: RE:
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: David Morens b6 Peter Daszak b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Peter Hotez b6 Rich Roberts b6 Jeff Sturchio b6

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 <dm b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Peter Hotez b6 Rich Roberts b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 >
Subject: Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** David Morens b6
> **Date:** May 31, 2022 at 14:44:17 EDT
> **To:** David Morens < b6
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_NIH_014613
REL0000479686

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 5:54:19 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 5:54:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Beginnings of a National Covid Commission with David Relman and Marc Lipsitch involved
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 eusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6

Peter:

Look at it positively. They are setting themselves up to be a target for criticism when they fail to come up with an answer.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:48 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >
Subject: Beginnings of a National Covid Commission with David Relman and Marc Lipsitch involved

EXTERNAL SENDER

As I suspected – here's a group positioning themselves to try to set up a National Covid Commission, including questions on the origins of the disease.

No surprise to see David Relman and Marc Lipsitch involved.

https://millercenter.org/covidcpg

I don't know why this in particular would become the US Govt's Covid Commission, but they're pitching is as akin to the 9/11 inquiry and even have one of the folks involved who was part of that.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013836
MORENS_NIH_026234
REL0000479687

Tel.: [redacted]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 9:31:16 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 9:28:56 PM -0500
Subject: RE: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC: David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Sorry that last article was Matt Pottinger, who caused so much trouble when he magnified the anti-China attacks under Trump in the State Dept. Still out there causing trouble by pushing everyone to chase at the Lab Leak windmill…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:14 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <b6 >; 'Aleksei Chmura' <b6
Subject: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday

NIH Acting Director Tabak was giving testimony to the House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday. They banged on about the usual issues, including attacking their oversight of our work, and generally pushing the idea that NIH funded EcoHealth that led to COVID. Here's a press release from the Committee:
https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/oversight- and-investigations- subcommittee-chair-griffith-opening-statement-on-the-federal-government-s-response-to-covid-19

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018324
MORENS_NIH_037305
REL0000479689

This was picked up by the NY Times, who seems to love reporting on the 'debate' on the lab leak, little realizing that even if they're on the right side of it, they're still amplifying attacks by publishing this:
https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/08/us/politics/house- covid-lab-leak.html

Then, today (unfortunately) Rand Paul went on a pretty rambling summary of lab leak conspiracies, criticizing EHA during Senate Foreign Relations hearing (I think) with the State Dept. There's a video from his Twitter feed here:
https://twitter.com/SenRandPaul/status/1623724657043013632?s=20 &t=pTNEJXwmjOPPDvD2q2ZFsA

Finally, the activists pushing this agenda are busy writing Op Eds to capitalize on the House's interest in investigating COVID origins. There have been a few, but here's one today with that horrible anti-China political correspondent Josh Rogin, and an equally irritating person who used to be in Clinton's National Security staff and is all-out for subpoena-ing scientists…
https://www.wsj.com/articles/we- still-dont-know-the-truth-about-covid-wuhan-lab-virology-pandemic-source-gain-of-function-who-research-accountability-china-congress-11675893326?st=zec5duovjxogxm4 &reflink=article_copyURL_share

It looks like we're in for a constant haranguing of reports, committee hearings, and the media attacks that cycle with them.

Writing this email from a hotel room near Gore Mountain in the Adirondacks – I find the only real place I can forget about all this hassle is when I'm zipping between giant iced-up moguls on the steepest runs…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:02 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 'Jeffrey Sturchio' b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

Very promising that people at that level are interested in getting involved in protecting against the anti-science agenda. I understand that they aren't sure what exactly to do, but that's where I think we need to keep thinking strategically amongst ourselves as we get further support. There needs to be either a formal coalition, with a name and a website, or a program led by an

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018325
MORENS_NIH_037306
REL0000479689

organization with taskforces, articles, and a way for people to get involved.

Right now, if we can persuade AAAS to take this on board, or one of the other orgs, then the second option will work, but if not, perhaps the way to do this is to convene a meeting of all relevant people/organizational representatives, and then have them all come up with a plan together.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: Follow up from our call

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018326
MORENS_NIH_037307
REL0000479689

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018328
MORENS_NIH_037309
REL0000479689

- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018329
MORENS_NIH_037310
REL0000479689

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: [redacted] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
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: b6
Passcode: b6
One tap mobile
b6 US (New York)
b6 US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 g >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

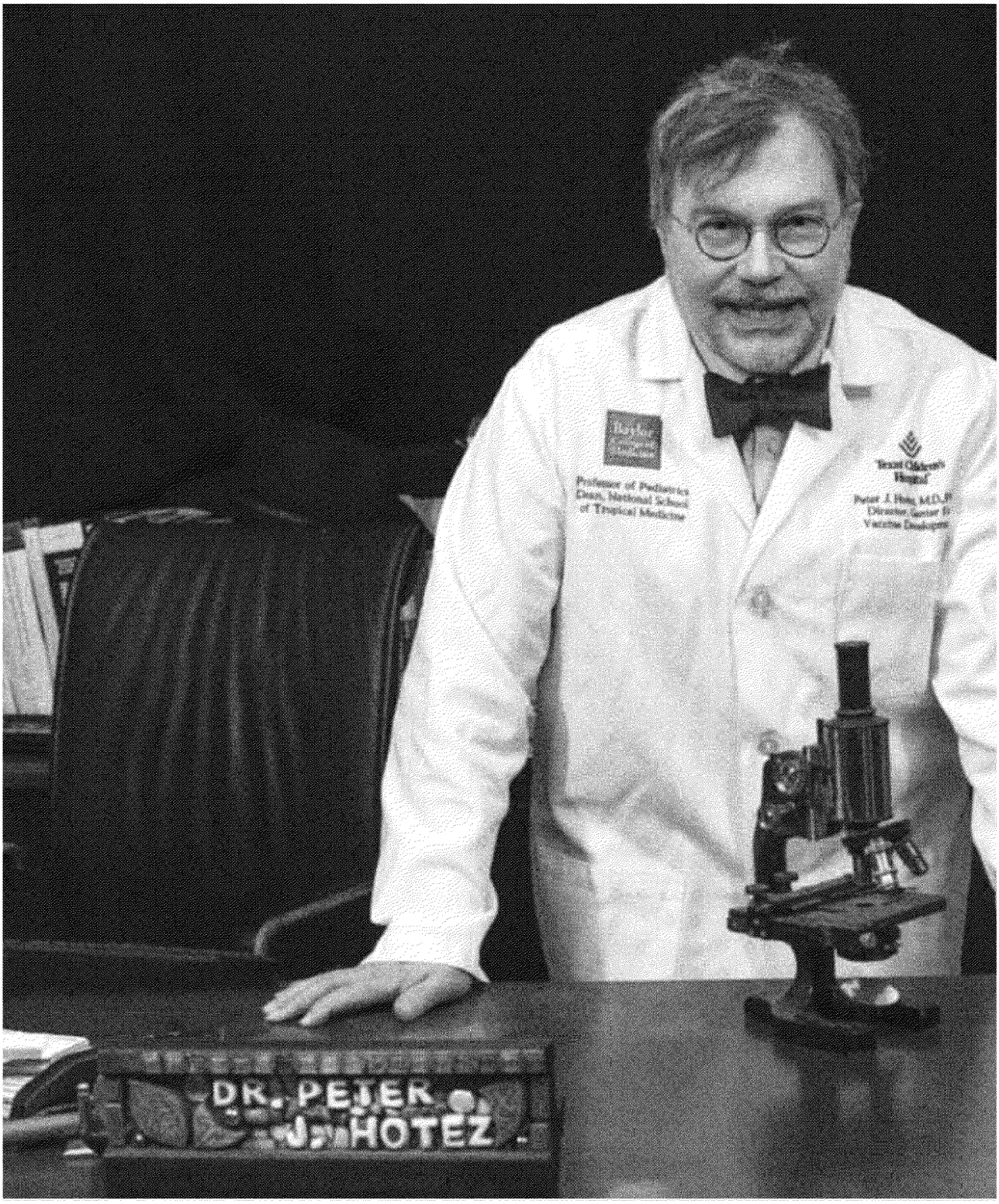
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018333
MORENS_NIH_037314
REL0000479689

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018334
MORENS_NIH_037315
REL0000479689

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018336
MORENS_NIH_037317
REL0000479689

these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018337
MORENS_NIH_037318
REL0000479689

hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018338
MORENS_NIH_037319
REL0000479689

COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018339
MORENS_NIH_037320
REL0000479689

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens b6 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 b6 > wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay < [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <[b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018342
MORENS_NIH_037323
REL0000479689

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH
Virologists defend their science as

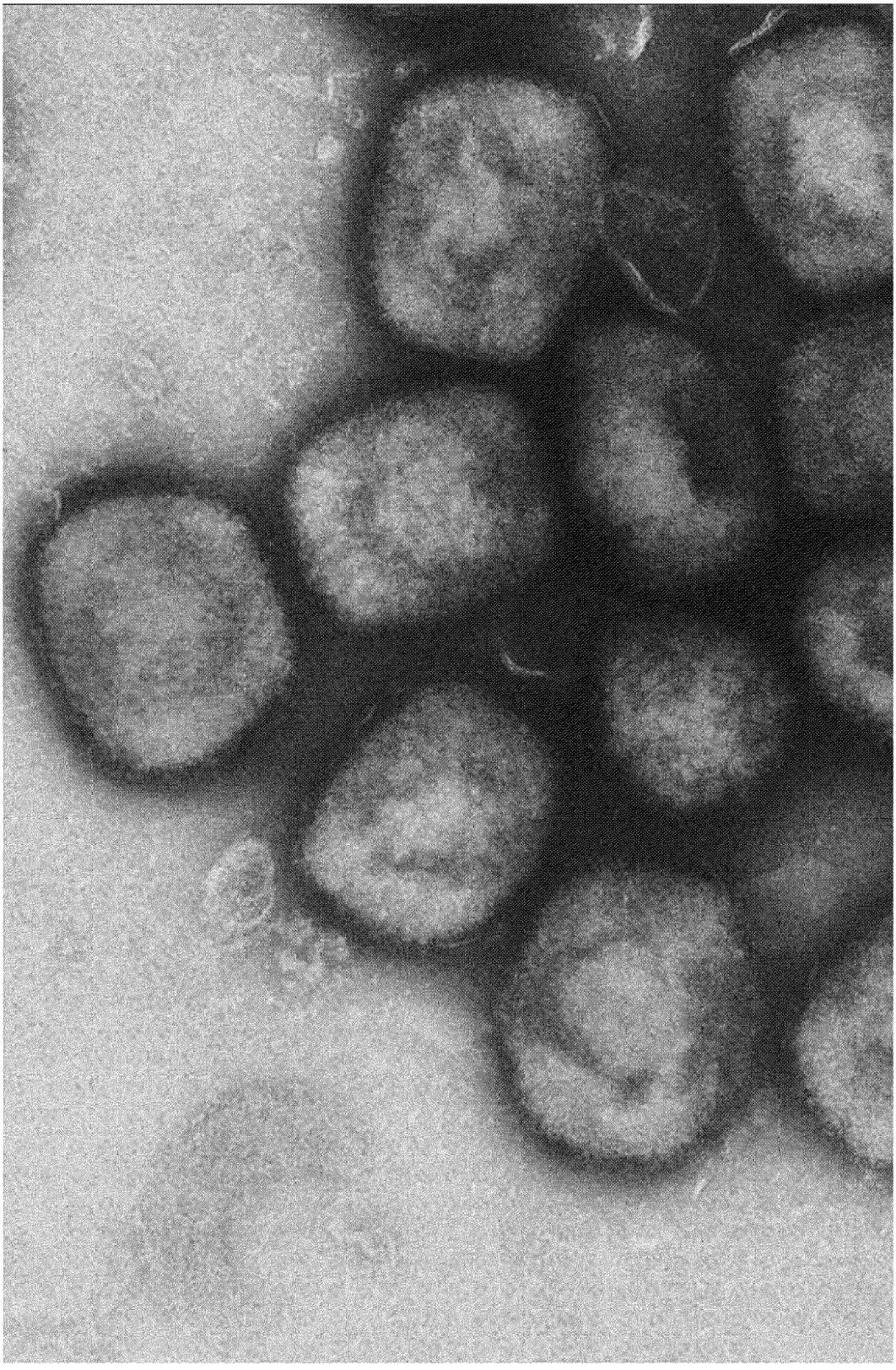
MORENS_SUBPOENA_018343
MORENS_NIH_037324
REL0000479689

officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018344
MORENS_NIH_037325
REL0000479689



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018345
MORENS_NIH_037326
REL0000479689

attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018346
MORENS_NIH_037327
REL0000479689

lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018347
MORENS_NIH_037328
REL0000479689

go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 avid Morens b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Rich Roberts b6
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 <hotez@bcm.edu>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018348
MORENS_NIH_037329
REL0000479689

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] ; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak b6 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 b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6
>; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018352
MORENS_NIH_037333
REL0000479689

friend the b6 from b6 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 b6 wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018353
MORENS_NIH_037334
REL0000479689

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6] | Phone: [b6] |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
b6
> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; Peter Daszak <
b6
>; Aleksei Chmura <
>; David Morens <
b6
>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6
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 <b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6; David Morens <b6>; Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <b6; Rich Roberts <b6
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



MinerFlux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6 g

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018357
MORENS_NIH_037338
REL0000479689

Date:	Wed, 16 Jun 2021 12:35:59 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 16 Jun 2021 12:35:55 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX
From:	"Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >
To:	David Morens b6 b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

Yes, this is difficult. But let us view-it as a process, and not despaIr at every twist and turn.

There will be many twists and turns, but they do not predict the outcome. The outcome is that the important scientific work that needs to be done, will be done. And the questions that need to be answered will be answered. And in the history books, your place is already assured

That said, the challenge is how to keep from despairing until we get to the finish line…

I had a very long phone chat with Tony tonight. He called because he is getting nervous about scheduled testimony before Congress a few weeks from now, and wNts to be reassured on multiple technical points, also asking that i help him do a "murder session", an internal run through in which surrogates attack him as if they were Republican nut jobs, and he practices how to respond

In that discussion he asked me to reassure him it was not a man made virus, that Bob Redfield was in lala land re his recent statements, and i also relayed to him, in some detail, our phone discussion today in which i told him that you had convinced me that broad viral sequencing across the 5-6 countries would yield the virus origin, and i told him i pressed you on that, that you convinced me, and that therefore it was critical the work go forward.

Admittedly, he is more concerned with his own being squeezed than with the fate if your work, but also realize that at the end if the day he is Always going to support what the science says.

On another subject, don't forget to send me your thoughts on at least 5 or so top research things that need to be done to get to the bottom of not only viral origin but also prevention/ control of future pandemic emergences

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 15, 2021, at 21:16, Peter Daszak [redacted] b6 g > wrote:
>
> You've got it exactly right Jerry. I've had a tough day – trying to hang on to a funder this afternoon, then trying to talk sense to a former board member who said I've brought ecohealth into the crosshairs. I told him our work did that, not me, but he says I came out too strong on the 'debate' from the beginning. So frustrating, not to mention this is no debate, these are two hypotheses with very imbalanced weights of evidence, in fact one has zero evidence. He wasn't listening – just buys into the idea that China was probably 'up to something'.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017289
MORENS_NIH_035480
REL0000479691

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Rich Roberts b6
Subject: RE: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

There is always the clash between special knowledge and expertise versus conflicts of interest because of personal bias, at least in the minds (such as they are) of some who see the world differently. Our only recourse is to declare our potential for a true biased conflict of interest to be open and truthful and to insist, like a juror, that we can review evidence and reach conclusions based on the evidence obtained and presented. Otherwise there is no reason to become trained and expert in any area of science. As in the past just claim special knowledge and expertise – or the not very distant past like Trumps claim to know more than everybody else when he propped people with COVID ingest or be injected with bleach to kill the virus (it can't grow in a dead person killed by bleach) – and skip the years and the costs of education and training.

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Rich Roberts < b6
Subject: RE: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

Really good to see this – the 2nd sentence in particular is extremely valuable:

"However, misinformation, unsubstantiated claims, and personal attacks on scientists surrounding the different theories of how the virus emerged are unacceptable, and are sowing public confusion and risk undermining the public's trust in science and scientists, including those still leading efforts to bring the pandemic under control."

The comment about "minimizing conflicts of interest" and implying that natural origin and lab leak are just two scenarios worth investigating, is of less use – the WHO mission is the only viable game in town to do this work, and I've been accused of having 'egregious' conflicts and this was pointed to in the Science letter that David Relman coordinated. Can't help this undermines my role in the work. It also undermines the WHO work, which clearly indicated that one of these scenarios was far more likely. Given the paper in Nature on live wildlife trade in Wuhan this week, and the paper in Cell on another close virus from bats in China, it seems one is clearly more worth our concern than the other – that's how science works, is it not – hypothesis, data, thesis (conclusion)…?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Jerry b6; b6; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: FW: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

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
- b6 ssistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:20 PM
Subject: Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies
https://bit.ly/2SAi6xX

Let Scientific Evidence Determine Origin of SARS-CoV-2, Urge Presidents of the National Academies

Statement | June 15, 2021

The origin of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and the circumstances of the first cases of human infection, remain unknown. Science is our best tool to ascertain, or to understand to the extent possible, the origins of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, which could help prevent future pandemics. However, misinformation, unsubstantiated claims, and personal attacks on scientists surrounding the different theories of how the virus emerged are unacceptable, and are sowing public confusion and risk undermining the public's trust in science and scientists, including those still leading efforts to bring the pandemic under control.

We urge that investigations into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 be guided by scientific principles, including reliance on verifiable data, reproducibility, objectivity, transparency, peer review, international collaboration, minimizing conflicts of interest, findings based on evidence, and clarity regarding uncertainties. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, there are multiple scenarios that could, in principle, explain its origin with varying degrees of plausibility based on our current understanding. These scenarios range from natural zoonotic spillover (when a virus spreads from non-human animals to humans) to those that are associated with laboratory work. Scientists need to be able to evaluate all of these scenarios, and all viable hypotheses, with credible data. Data accessibility, transparency, and full cooperation from China, of course, will be essential for a proper and thorough investigation.

Although much still needs to be done to stop the pandemic, particularly in developing nations, science has made remarkable headway, especially through the rapid development of effective vaccines. The same scientific robustness, rigor, and cooperation should be applied to examining important questions about how the pandemic began.

Marcia McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
John L. Anderson
President, National Academy of Engineering
Victor J. Dzau
President, National Academy of Medicine

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 19 Mar 2021 11:35:47 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 19 Mar 2021 11:35:44 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments: RE: EcoHealth Alliance (43.6 KB).msg

Peter:

Thanks for sharing this. It is very discouraging to see these kinds of attacks continuing and very disturbing that Dave Relman is involved.

I am attaching an email I received on Wednesday from Francis in response to a letter I had sent to him (at the bottom of the thread). While at least he responded to this one it was merely a deflection.

As for another investigation, hopefully you will be able to convince them that it would be a huge waste of time and money. Unless the Chinese undergo a complete about turn, they are not going to be cooperative in any additional way over and above their response to the WHO investigation.

If you see any additional way in which I might help please do let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

This letter from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce was filed yesterday. I don't know what normally happens with this, but I'm assuming NIH will respond and I won't have to do anything. Note that Dr. Relman is cited and center, and I believe he's agitating to head up an inquiry from the NASEM. I've thought this for a long time after he approached me a couple of times a year ago to inquire about my work in China.

This letter is part of a barrage of daily attacks at this point. Today, the US Right to Know filed a FoIA at Erasmus Univ Netherlands where Marion Koopmans (also on the WHO mission) works, for emails to me and the WHO people, adding to multiple broadsheet articles over the past week from WSJ and less sophisticated right wing papers. I don't know if they can FoIA a foreign Univ, but I've now got to spend hours of my time with their lawyers and ours to find out.

On the good side, I was asked to brief staffers at the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which I'm assuming will be a positive experience, and I'm reaching out to the State Dept and NSC to offer briefings on WHO findings ahead of the report. Additionally, 60 minutes is doing a piece on the report and interviewed me, but I suspect they're going to dwell on the lab release hypothesis.

Meanwhile, I'm drafting a response to the 10 conditions from Collins & Lauer and will have a draft within a few days for your comments if that's ok. Given Biden's theatrical show at the China summit today, I don't hold up much hope that this sort of aggression is going to dissipate quickly…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012893
MORENS_NIH_024423
REL0000479694

Date: Tue, 7 Sep 2021 8:42:27 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 7 Sep 2021 8:42:26 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ b6
To: b6 b6 b6
CC: b6 b6 b6 b6

I'm so sorry, Peter. I'm sure you just want this nightmare to be over. I think it makes the serology-based research from Cambodia even more important. Happy to report on that as soon as it's ready. Cheers. Jason

From: b6 At: 09/08/21 10:39:08 UTC+10:00
To: b6

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , b6
b6

Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012756
MORENS_NIH_024156
REL0000479695

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen <b6>; Edward Holmes <b6>
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; b6g;
b6
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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes [b6] >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; [b6] >; [b6] >; Garry, Robert F [b6] >;
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 <[b6] 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/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012758
MORENS_NIH_024158
REL0000479695

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 29 Jul 2021 1:07:44 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 29 Jul 2021 1:07:35 PM -0400
Subject: Re: My latest in PLOS Biology
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Robert Kessler b6

YES please do! I've already asked Vivek to pass along my request but I'm not sure it's gone anywhere

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
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
b6

Phone b6

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021238
MORENS_NIH_042092
REL0000479699

On Jul 29, 2021, at 12:00 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] > wrote:

Peter, this is dynamite! Exactly what needs to be said and pulling no punches. The best part is asking the US President (and I would add other government leaders as well) to take a strong stand. May I share confidentially with Tony and our "inner office" folks? d

On 7/29/2021 12:43 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3001369

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

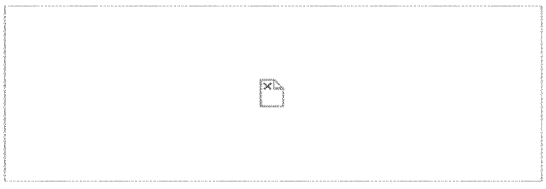
Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
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
b6

Phone: b6



MORENS_SUBPOENA_021239
MORENS_NIH_042093
REL0000479699

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 26, 2021, at 8:33 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

TY, look forward to that. We HAVE TO keep chipping away at the insanity d

On 7/25/2021 5:23 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

Many thanks David, FYI I have an article in PLOS Biology scheduled for this week that details the far right aggression targeting prominent US scientists and how this fits in with a larger scheme for authoritarian control. I think Tony will appreciate this as well! Warmest 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 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: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
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
[b6]

Phone: [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021240
MORENS_NIH_042094
REL0000479699

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2021, at 4:17 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

If they hate your guts, that's, like, the highest compliment you can get. Congratulations are in order....

PS, great quote from you on TV a couple days ago: "anti-science aggression from the political Right", that says it all in a nutshell.... Science, all we do, our whole careers, that field of endeavor that has extended our lifespan by 20+ years, cured most cancers, landed men on the moon, given us TVs, computers, and tanning salons for fat unfashionable presidents, is now the enemy. Someone has turned off the juice on the Enlightenment.... d

On 7/25/2021 4:36 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

It's getting crazy out there, my latest run-in with Governor DeSantis of Florida and Laura Ingraham at Fox News. They hate my guts.

https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2021/7/15/2040161/- Ron-DeSantis-fed-COVID-crow-by-doctor-he-d-ridiculed-on-Fox-News



MORENS_SUBPOENA_021241
MORENS_NIH_042095
REL0000479699

www.dailykos.com

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

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

<Outlook-whaa4ygz.png>

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Re: explicit language warning!

He probably doesn't know how to F*%$ himself, as he claerly failed anatomy. And all the other med school subjects. d

On 7/25/2021 3:20 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's a story, not for the faint-hearted.
>
> It's a question for Senator (Dr.) Rand Paul, from a member of the public who called into one of his public Q&A sessions.
>
> Obviously, one doesn't condone this base level of public discourse, but I found myself curiously buoyed by it after his months of continued attacks…
>
> Here's a story:
>
> https://goodwordnews.com/senator- rand-paul-said-to-get-fucked-at-virtual-town-hall/
>
> Here's the video on Twitter:
>
> https://twitter.com/phil_lewis_/status/1418676246003818496?s=10
>
> Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:07 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'Roberts, Rich' < b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: 'David Morens' < b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6 g >
Subject: Fauci defending the funding of EcoHealth's grant with WIV in the Right wing press

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021244
MORENS_NIH_042098
REL0000479699

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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6
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 [b6]g >
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T < [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6] Robert Kessler < [b6]
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.

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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:42 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < b6 >
Cc: 'David Morens b6 >; Robert Kessler < b6
Subject: Harold Varmus has been spotted in CT!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021247
MORENS_NIH_042101
REL0000479699

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 her summer home in CT (I think). 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich < b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak < b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 >
Cc: David Morens < b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6 >
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
USA
Tel: (b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Peter Daszak < b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6
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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak < b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021249
MORENS_NIH_042103
REL0000479699

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
Tel: (b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6 >
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021250
MORENS_NIH_042104
REL0000479699

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 [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich < [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < b6
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

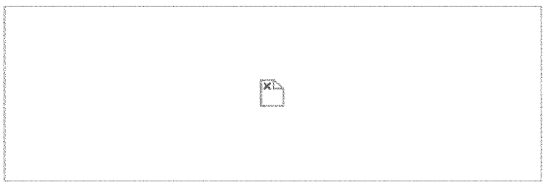
Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
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
b6

Phone: b6



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak <
b6
> 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021253
MORENS_NIH_042107
REL0000479699

Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков b6; Leendertz, Fabian b6 Peter Daszak < b6 >; LeendertzF < b6 >; Keith Hamilton < b6 >; John Watson < b6 >; DEBBICHE, Hassene < b6 Thea Kølsen Fischer < b6 >; BAERT, Primaël < b6 >; SHEATH, Danny < b6 >; Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) b6
STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021254
MORENS_NIH_042108
REL0000479699

DRURY, Patrick Anthony [b6] Ken Maeda < [b6] M.P.G. Koopmans ([b6]) [b6] >; Hayman, David [b6] y.ac.nz >; IVANOVIC, Dragana [b6] ; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag < [b6] Dominic Dwyer < [b6]
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. [b6] Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria [b6] BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim [b6]
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 20 Oct 2021 9:08:47 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 20 Oct 2021 9:08:35 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Introduction to our key Collaborator in France, and heads-up re. a PREZODE event at French Embassy Oct 21st
From: ROCHE Benjamin b6
To: David Morens b6

That's perfect, thanks a lot

On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 8:25 AM David Morens b6 wrote:
That's fine, although i had thought you were busy AFTER 2 PM. But 2 is fine for me

Would you and your friends like to come onto the NIH campus? If so you will need masks and 2 IDs and i should be able to help you get in. If not, it is about a 15 minute walk to any place to sit down.

On the NIH campus i am hoping we can sit down in the lobby of Building 50, closest to the Metro stop. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Oct 20, 2021, at 08:11, ROCHE Benjamin b6 wrote:
>
> We can definitely meet outside the NIH. What about 2PM at the subway "Medical Center" ? BTW, do you mind if I come with two colleagues (one from the prezode initiative, one from the french embassy) ? Please do not hesitate if you prefer to discuss just with me
>
> On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 6:55 AM David Morens b6 wrote:
> OK, i can try to get away before then. Where should we meet? To get on the NIH campus you have to go through security, which is like at the airport. Or we could meet some place nearby on the Metro line. Let me know when and where. I know the areas along the Metro line but am not sure which coffee shops might be open, since some are shut down or with restricted hours due to COVID. Or we could meet at my condo which is a bit south of NIH
>
> But if you want to see a bit of the niH campus that's OK too. david
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Oct 19, 2021, at 18:19, ROCHE Benjamin b6 wrote:
> >
> > Perfect. It will be complicated for me after 2PM, so if it works for you at that time, that would be fantastic
> >
> >
> > Labs:
> >
> > Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
> > Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)

>
> Postal address:
> Centre IRD de Montpellier
> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
> France
>
> Phone: b6
> e-mail: b6
> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>
>> Le 19 oct. 2021 à 14:58, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 a écrit :
>>
>> Yes, I think so. What time, later is probably easier for me, but I think I can get free for an hour at ANY TIME D
>>
>>> On 10/19/2021 12:18 PM, ROCHE Benjamin wrote:
>>> Fantastic. I'm in downtown (near French embassy), but I can definitely come. Do you think that beginning afternoon could work ? (Something like 1:30PM)
>>>
>>> Best,
>>>
>>>
>>> Labs:
>>>
>>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>
>>> Postal address:
>>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>> France
>>>
>>> Phone:+ b6
>>> e-mail: b6
>>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>
>>>> Le 19 oct. 2021 à 09:16, David Morens b6 a écrit :
>>>>
>>>> Hi Benjamin, I am sorry for being late in replying, because I was on
>>>> leave with my family and just back at work and catching up now.
>>>>
>>>> As far as I know Cristina will be coming to the meeting.
>>>>
>>>> yes I will be arouind tomorrow although working at work. But I should
>>>> be able to find some free time and would like to meet if possible.
>>>> Where will you be? I am at NIH in Bethesda which takes a long time to
>>>> go from downtown to here and back, if you are downtown in DC.
>>>>
>>>> But let me know. We have a Metro that normally works well although
>>>> over the past few days it has been operating at half speed because of
>>>> some safety issues.

>>>> David
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> David M. Morens, MD
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> b6 b6 b6 (work)
>>>> b6 b6 b6 (cell)
>>>>
>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which
>>>> is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a
>>>> reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>>>
>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my
>>>> NIAID address
>>>>
>>>> On Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 1:40 PM ROCHE Benjamin b6 wrote:
>>>>> Dear David and Peter,
>>>>>
>>>>> Sorry for the organization has been a bit confusing. Actually, this is the NIH who has invited Cristina, but we still don't know if she's coming. Nevertheless, I'll be in DC for a couple of days (and pretty free this Wednesday), so if you are available, that would be a pleasure to present you this initiative.
>>>>>
>>>>> All the best,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Labs:
>>>>>
>>>>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>>>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>>>
>>>>> Postal address:
>>>>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>>>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>>>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>>>> France
>>>>>
>>>>> Phone: b6
>>>>> e-mail: b6
>>>>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>>>
>>>>>> Le 18 oct. 2021 à 19:32, David Morens b6 a écrit :
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Peter, yes, sorry to miss that. I may not be able to go either
>>>>>> because the organizers invited Cristina Cassetti instead of me, but
>>>>>> that is OK as she will be good.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> D

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016243
MORENS_NIH_034365
REL0000479705

>>>>>>
>>>>>> David M. Morens, MD
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
>>>>>>
>>>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which
>>>>>> is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a
>>>>>> reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>>>>>
>>>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my
>>>>>> NIAID address
>>>>>>
>>>>>> On Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 1:08 PM Peter Daszak
>>>>>> [redacted] > wrote:
>>>>>>> Sorry I won't be able to make it to the event after all David. I'll be on a college visit with my daughter that day.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Please say hello to all our colleagues and I hope you have a good opportunity to talk with Benjamin, who is heading up this really interesting and important initiative at IRD.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Peter
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> President
>>>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016244
MORENS_NIH_034366
REL0000479705

>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> USA
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Tel.: b6
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Website: b6
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> From: ROCHE Benjamin b6
>>>>>>> Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:48 AM
>>>>>>> To: David Morens b6 >; benjamin.roche <b6
>; Carlos Zambrana-Torrelio b6
>>>>>>> Subject: Re: Introduction to our key Collaborator in France, and heads-up re. a PREZODE event at French Embassy Oct 21st
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Dear David,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> I hope this e-mail will find you well. Actually, Peter will not be able to come, but I will be glad to meet you to present the PREZODE initiative. By any chance, do you have some possibilities on Wednesday 20th? I'll be in DC
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> All the best,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Labs:
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>>>>>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Postal address:

>>>>>>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>>>>>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>>>>>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>>>>>> France
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Phone: b6
>>>>>>> e-mail b6
>>>>>>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Le 22 sept. 2021 à 16:54, David Morens b6 a écrit :
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Peter, and Ben glad to meet you on email, and will be happy to come to the event.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Not sure what you mean by "represent at the event", but I suppose you mean represent NIH? Or NIAID? Anything I need to do other than just enjoy it?
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> TY, David
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> David M. Morens, MD
>>>>>>>

b6

>>>>>>>
b6
>>>>>>>
b6
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> On Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 11:43 AM Peter Daszak [redacted] g > wrote:
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Hi David,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> I'm introducing you by email to my colleague Dr. Ben Roche from IRD France. He is the PI of the new French Govt pandemic prediction initiative PREZODE. As you can see from the Email below mine, there is an event scheduled for October 21st at the French Embassy in DC. I'll be moderating the panel discussion and will be in DC in person (FINALLY!!).
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Ben is looking for someone from NIH to represent at that event. I've suggested you would be perfect for that role, and wanted to introduce you to him now.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Full disclosure, Ben is working with EHA on joint projects and we signed an MOU with the French Govt IRD to stimulate joint efforts to predict and prevent pandemics. I've also cc'd Carlos Zambrana-Torrelio from EHA who I believe you've met in the past, who has worked closely on this initiative.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Hope you're available and look forward to seeing you while I'm in DC whatever the case!
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Peter
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016247
MORENS_NIH_034369
REL0000479705

>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> President
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> USA
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Tel.: +[b6]
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> From: POIRIER Agnès [b6] >
>>>>>>> Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:47 AM
>>>>>>> To: Biffl, Claire [b6]
>>>>>>> Cc: Liao, Julie [b6]; LIGEARD Christia [b6]
>>>>>>> Subject: French Embassy: conference on the PREZODE Initiative (October 21st)
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Dear Ms. Biffl,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> As you well know, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency of designing effective strategies for preventing and responding to health crises by taking greater account of the interactions between human health, animal health and environmental health.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> In response to this emergency, the French President Emmanuel Macron launched the PREZODE initiative during the One Planet Summit on January 11, with the support of the Director General of the FAO and the President of the European Commission.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> This initiative (see attached document) aims to network, on a global scale, research work and operational actions to prevent the risks of zoonotic emergencies and pandemics through the reduction of pressures on biodiversity, in accordance with the “One Health” approach. It will improve knowledge of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016248
MORENS_NIH_034370
REL0000479705

the risks of emergence and spread of zoonoses, strengthen the surveillance activities of the networks that already exist and ensure greater compliance with prevention measures for future diseases.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The PREZODE initiative will strengthen cooperation with several regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, America, Europe…) and will support the integration and strengthening of human, animal and environmental health networks. It will also support the work of the "One Health" High Level Panel of Experts proposed by France with the support of Germany, and launched by what we call the Tripartite + (WHO-FAO- World Organization For Animal Health-UN Environment Programme) on May 17 and 18.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The year 2021 is dedicated to building the strategic framework and the operation of the initiative, with the objective of entering the operational phase from 2022.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> In this context, the French Embassy is planning to host a conference (preferably an in-person event) to present the PREZODE initiative and discuss the possible involvement of US government and research institutions.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The event is scheduled for October 21, 2021, in the afternoon (2:30–5:30 pm) and would consist (see draft program attached) of two sequences of approximately one hour each:
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> - Presentation of the PREZODE initiative by representatives (scientific or institutional directors) of the three French research institutes involved, CIRAD (Agricultural Research Centre for International Development), INRAE (National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment), IRD (National Research Institute for Sustainable Development)
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> - Panel discussion on national and international initiatives: statements by DoS, DoD (DTRA), CDC, USDA, USAID, OHHLEP, the Tripartite+, the World Bank, private sector…
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> We are currently looking for a moderator for this event, and would be honored to involve an expert from the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats. Indeed, the Forum's work on these issues, its leadership and independence, and its broad audience seem to me to be perfect for our event. If you agree to this role, I would be happy to discuss further the organization of the meeting.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Thank you for your consideration and best regards,
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Dr Agnès POIRIER, D.V.M.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Conseillère SPS / Counselor for sanitary and phytosanitary matters - USA / Canada
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Conseiller agricole adjoint / Deputy Agricultural Counselor
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Ambassade de France / Embassy of France
>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> 4101 Reservoir Road N.W.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Washington DC 20007-2173
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Tel: b6
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Cell: b6
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> www.ambafrance-fr.org
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> https://frenchtreasuryintheus.org
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> <image001.png>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.
>> --
>> David M Morens b6
>

--

Labs:

Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)

Postal address:
Centre IRD de Montpellier
911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
34394 Montpellier cedex 5
France

Phone: b6
e-mail:r b6
web: http://rocheben.github.io/

--

Labs:

Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)

Postal address:
Centre IRD de Montpellier
911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
34394 Montpellier cedex 5
France

Phone: b6
e-mail (b) (6)
web: http://rocheben.github.io/

Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 5:20:27 PM -0400

Sent: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 5:20:22 PM -0400

Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]>

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;

CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Jerry and Peter:

Perhaps, Peter could write back to Elena Fuentes-Afflick and say that he is greatly disturbed by the allegations and needs to seek some advice from some friends, who he knows will respect the confidentiality requested in the letter. Will that be OK?

This is to try and ensure that any "leakage" is not his personal responsibility.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi Jeff,

I agree, and so is his committee. My first thought in response is the following. When this originally came up I was in touch with Bruce Alberts and Harvey Fineberg, both past Presidents at NASEM, and asked them to intervene. They did and were not favorable to NAM pursuing these allegations. I could follow up with them with the latest information and see what they have to say. The conundrum is that the NAM cover letter dated April 11 says that "all involved respect the confidentiality of the review process" and the attached document says it is "Privileged and Confidential". Peter will be in conflict with these instructions if he shares the material, and perhaps more so if any of us then further disseminates (however precisely) the material. Having no sense of what they are actually thinking, is this just a cover their ass process or do they actually believe there is a real issue, it is impossible to figure out where they are going with it.

My advice on the phone to Peter was to take it slow, restrain the anger and the frustration, and figure out how to respond based on a personal code of behavior as a scientist involved in research both before and after it was politicized, from being the darling of NIH and NAM to being trolled by people who have nothing but raw politics as the ideal they follow. Let's talk among ourselves, and think about the pros and the cons for any action taken. Then with Peter. Some of us could talk to Tony Fauci confidentially, and be confident it would be confidential. I think I could talk to Bruce Alberts in a confidential manner, and he is at UCSF, the same institution as the writer of the letter, Elena Fuentes-Afflick, so he presumably knows her and she certainly would know of him.

Is there any strategy that would include having Peter write to Fuentes-Afflick to say he has to consult with scientific colleagues and respected members of the Academies as part of his preparation of a response – its not just what he did or said or didn't do or say, its about the very soul and conscience of science and being a scientist when attacked in an aggressive and politically charged manner like this.

I didn't expect it to go to this step, which is why I am struggling here. Your thoughts, and maybe a call soon?

Jerry

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Jerry:

This situation is outrageous. The NAM is not covering itself in glory right now – rather than standing up for the freedom of scientific inquiry, they are abetting politically-motivated character assassination. As Peter H observes, the NAM could just tell Congress to stuff it – instead they are doing their dirty work. Victor Dzau could have exercised leadership on this question – instead he is hiding behind anonymous process. Is there any way we can bring pressure to bear on Dzau to put a stop to this?

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Rich Roberts (b) (6) avid 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007075
MORENS_NIH_016193
REL0000479710

Just off the phone with Peter D. He is really down with this shameful news from NAM, on top of being hit with COVID since Saturday. A word of encouragement, and willingness to brainstorm with him on the response would be immediately helpful.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

My outrage aside…The legality of this does not make sense. NAM is not a government entity, right? So NAM could tell them to get stuffed if they wanted to?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 1:18 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: b6
Cc: Kim, Se b6
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

The information contained in this transmission is confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007079
MORENS_NIH_016197
REL0000479710

Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 12:01:57 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 11:58:18 AM -0500
Subject: Couple of articles of interest
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Rich Roberts [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: image001.png

Thinking about our conversation next week on building a coalition to push back against some of the anti-science movement, I noticed that, following David Relman's and Mark Lipsitch's coining of the phrase 'risky research', that Science journal has now started using it. It's a slightly worrying trend, because in the online chatter, and in the Right Wing press, even conducting surveillance of wildlife for potential zoonoses is regularly called 'Risky Research'.

When we wrote our Independent taskforce report, we used the phrase 'smart surveillance' as a counter, but not sure that's being picked up at all!

Here is Relman's article in December last yr:
https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adf6020

And here is the new piece in Science (full text below):
https://www.science.org/content/article/us- announces-more-new-rules-potentially-risky-research

U.S. Announces More New Rules for Potentially Risky Research
Policies target studies involving the H5N1 influenza virus and 14 other 'especially dangerous' agents

- 21 FEB 2013
- BYDAVID MALAKOFF

Greater scrutiny. U.S.-funded researchers working with 15 especially dangerous agents, such as the Ebola virus (*above*), face new regulatory hurdles. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Researchers interested in conducting studies with 15 potentially dangerous agents and toxins—including the H5N1 avian influenza virus—face some new hurdles in getting funding from the U.S. government. Federal officials today released two policy documents that lay out stricter requirements for institutional and government oversight of studies that pose especially problematic safety concerns.

One policy, released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), applies only to scientists seeking funds for experiments that might create new strains of the H5N1 virus that can move between mammals in respiratory droplets. (The virus normally infects birds.) Experts fear that such mammal-transmissible H5N1 viruses could spark a deadly human pandemic if they escape from a laboratory or are intentionally released by terrorists. U.S. officials outline the new policy today in *Science*.

The other document, released by the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), asks for public comment on proposed new rules for scientists, universities, and other institutions working with a broader set of 15 especially dangerous agents and toxins—including H5N1—that could be used to cause harm. Existing U.S. rules, released in March 2012, require federal agencies to review funding proposals that involve the 15 agents for "dual use research of concern," or DURC. The draft policy would require additional reviews by scientists and their institutions. Universities would also need to establish procedures for developing plans for mitigating risks associated with such dual-use studies.

Both policies are direct responses to a global controversy that emerged in late 2011 after two laboratories, one in the United States and one in the Netherlands, announced they had engineered mammal-transmissible H5N1 viruses. The research sparked disagreement over whether the results should be published and whether scientists should be conducting such research at all. H5N1 researchers imposed a yearlong voluntary moratorium on their work, which ended last month, while governments worked out new oversight rules.

Both of the policies announced today are expected to apply to a relatively small slice of biological research. Officials have said that just a handful of U.S.-funded researchers are engaged in H5N1 research that would fall under the new policy. The new DURC policy would have a broader impact, officials say, covering perhaps several hundred laboratories known to work with the 15 agents. All but one of the agents are already regulated under a separate set of safety and security rules governing "select agents."

Under the proposed rules, scientists would be asked to determine whether a proposed study met the definition of DURC—for

example, whether the experiment might make a toxin more deadly or confer resistance to treatments, and whether the results "could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat" to the public. Universities would also be required to establish a new committee—or use an existing one—to do DURC reviews, and appoint an "Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research," or ICDUR, to oversee potentially problematic projects. Universities would have 30 days to inform a funding agency that they were reviewing a proposal and 90 days to submit a draft plan for mitigating any risks.

The plan also calls on institutions to make its DURC review procedures "accessible to the public." But the government doesn't want institutions to publish "details of particular cases or the minutes of the DURC review entity's proceedings."
That might be a hard rule to enforce in states with expansive freedom of information laws covering publicly funded institutions, said Franca Jones, OSTP's assistant director for chemical and biological countermeasures, in a teleconference with reporters today. It is just one of the difficult issues in the draft policy that officials are hoping the public will comment on, she said. Comments are due by 23 April.

The draft policy is drawing mixed reactions from university groups. "At first blush, there is a need for biosecurity regulation of select agents," says Carrie Wolinetz of the Association of American Universities in Washington, D.C. But existing select agent rules are fairly strict, she noted, and "imposing a second review system [for DURC] on agents that are already heavily regulated may be of marginal benefit."

H5N1 researchers are likely to be happier with the new HHS rules, which were revised following a December 2012 meeting on the topic. The new language removes any mention of classifying problematic studies or results, for instance, instead clarifying that HHS will support only research that can be shared publicly. The final rule also drops language that called on researchers to show that the virus they wanted to create could evolve in nature "in the foreseeable future." Instead, researchers need only to provide evidence that the virus could "be produced through a natural evolutionary process."
Officials say they will regularly review and revise both new policies as needed.
***Update 4:32 p.m., 21 February:** *This item has been updated to clarify the definition of DURC.*

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 5:23 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 Rich Roberts b6 Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

I suspect you have got it exactly right. I and others in and out of govt are in the same boat. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 22, 2023, at 16:13, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] wrote:

Thanks Jerry, I would consider it, but for whatever reason the White House seeks my behind the scenes advice and input, but publicly it seems I'm kept at arm's length. Perhaps I'm too direct and plain spoken, which works well on TV and in academia but maybe not the way things get done in government?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On Jan 22, 2023, at 2:50 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]> wrote:

Just looking at the chat. Thanks David for starting it. I downloaded the new paper and look forward to sitting down to read it. I have thought there were a number of areas where NIAID vaccine research policy was off-center, for example how long it took to focus attention on a universal non-seasonal influenza A vaccine. We lost a lot of time by the decision to go with the status quo.

My NEIDL colleague Nahid Bhadelia is working with Ashish Jha at the WH on coronavirus policy. I will ask her to talk to Ashish about raising a fire under the woodpile the administration leadership is quietly resting and to get busy with the job of finding the next Harold Varmus. Its 18 years since he left and there has been no comparable leader, and during that time the reputation of NIH has been tarnished by one after another leader. Larry Taback is just the latest. Of course it could have been worse, CDC as the example, but that's no comfort.

Peter H, you should keep this in mind. The time to step forward may not be now but do stay tuned to the sounds coming out of HHS and the WH.

Jerry

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Peter Daszak <b6 Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

True, but niaid functions somewhat independently, so the effect on us is minimal, some might even say desirable.
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:56, Hotez, Peter Jay <b6> wrote:

Probably but it's been more than a year, 13 months

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:50 AM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

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

MORENS_NIH_031633
REL0000479712

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 b6 wrote:

I probably won't do that. If there was a groundswell of interest I would consider it, but my science is going well here, and for now they are not running me out of Texas. Although that could change on a dime as well. I'm surprised the White House has no urgency to fill the NIH Director's slot.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:34 AM, David Morens b6 wrote:

PS, this may sound cynical, but by applying and letting it be known publicly, you could force them from pursuing a cover up selection

There is much concern here that a poorly qualified nih or other candidate could be selected under the radar. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:31, David Morens b6 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 b6 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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

MORENS_NIH_031635
REL0000479712

On Jan 21, 2023, at 9:23 AM, David Morens < b6 > 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 < b6 > wrote:
>
> Thanks for the thoughtful note David, in terms of moving forward with your plan, a couple of things to keep in mind:

The GOP House Oversight and Judiciary Committees each headed by Freedom Caucus members will begin their investigative hearings this year. While Biden is the major target at some point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.

NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?

Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:
Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6
b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 8:39 AM, David Morens < b6 > 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

MORENS_NIH_031638
REL0000479712

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

MORENS_NIH_031639
REL0000479712

Date: Thu, 9 Sep 2021 4:50:22 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 9 Sep 2021 4:48:53 PM -0400
Subject: New line of attack today as expected, based on higher viral load in mouse lungs etc..
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Robert Kessler [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
CC: Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: image003.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image001.jpg

Note – cc'ing Jeff Sturchio, who's working with us at EHA.

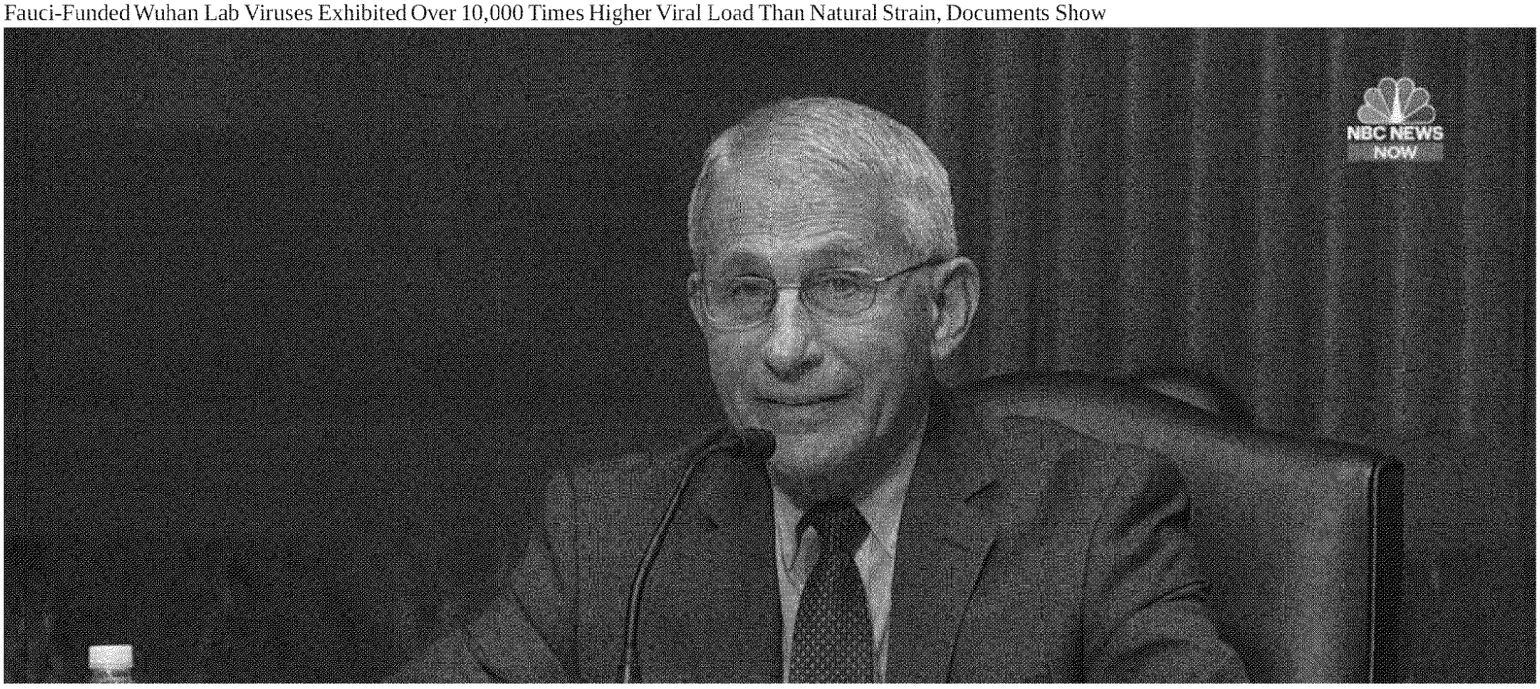
Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. Good response from NIH spokesperson: An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a 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



DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUNDATION

-
-
-
-

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**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022307
MORENS_NIH_043208
REL0000479717

agency show.

- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."

"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.

In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.

Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.

EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.

"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."

"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.

EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

B.2 (Year 4 NIAID CoV Report_Final for eRA Commons.pdf)

1R01AI110964 Year 4 Report PI: Daszak, Peter

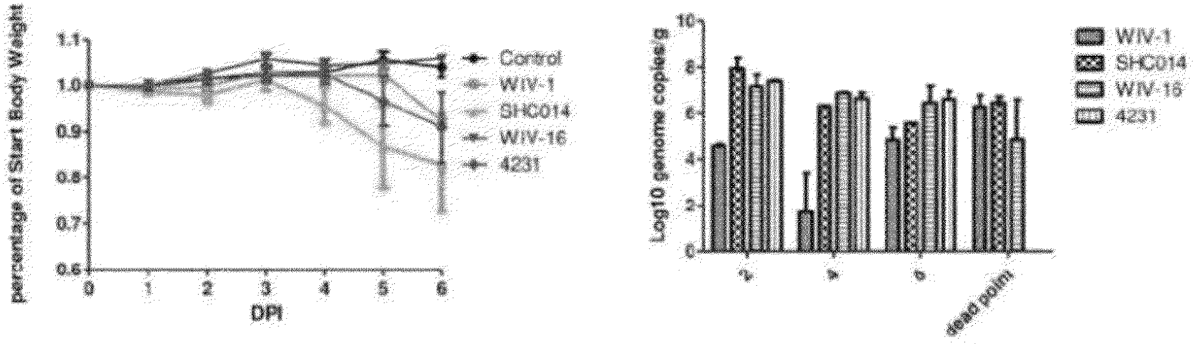


***Figure 35.** In vivo infection of SARSr-CoVs in hACE2-expressing mice. (a, left) Body weight change after infection; (b, right) Viral load in lung tissues*

Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)

"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022308
MORENS_NIH_043209
REL0000479717

The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.

"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.

EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.

EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.

Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.

Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.

The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. **(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)**

Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.

The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.

Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.

SECTION IV – AI Special Terms and Conditions – 5R01AI110964-05

Clinical Trial Indicator: No
This award does not support any NIH-defined Clinical Trials. See the NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 1.2 for NIH definition of Clinical Trial.

Page-5

NIH Web X | Version: | - 01/26/2018 12:57:10 Generated on: 6/18/2018 12:02:15 AM

If any experiments proposed in this award result in a virus with enhanced growth by more than 1 log compared to wild type strains, you must notify your NIAID Program Officer and Grants Management Specialist immediately. Further research involving the resulting virus(es) may require review by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the Framework for Guiding Funding Decisions about Proposed Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens (https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf).

NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)

An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022309
MORENS_NIH_043210
REL0000479717

"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."

Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation is available without charge to any eligible news publisher that can provide a large audience. For licensing opportunities of our original content, please contact licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:07 PM
To: 'David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 'Robert Kessler b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: More incoming expected tonight from the Intercept
Importance: High

David – I hope you saw my email response to Kristian Andersen (below). We're expecting a story tonight from the Intercept that accuses EHA of breaking the rules with our work in Wuhan re. GoF, and in general.

Their main angle is the GoF issue. They're maintaining that our expts on bat-CoVs were GoF, despite us stating that these are not viruses that have ever been shown to infect people, something required in the P3CO definitions. They're also following Ebright's focus on one of expts in WIV that shows a chimera with a bat SARSr-CoV spike insert leading to higher viral load in mouse lungs than the parental strain (WIV1 – it's fig. 35 in the year 4 report, aim 3, p. 29 – attached). Again that doesn't mean GoF because these are both bat viruses. Furthermore, the NoA states that we should report 1 log or higher growth to NIH and stop the expt. Our view is that this is exactly what we did – we reported to NIH and that's the report that the Intercept has now FoIA'd. It's all somewhat moot in any case because at least two of the other viruses who's spikes were inserted, have also been cultured and therefore none of the chimeras are of higher risk than those parental strains.

They might also try to accuse us of breaking the agreement on releasing genetic data publicly, which we suggested we'd do 6 months after receiving 'final sequences' or upon publishing. Jesse Bloom emailed me to ask for these data and is clearly trying to catch us out. However, we published all SARSr-CoV genetic sequence data on Genbank prior to our publication in Nature Comms last year. There are many reasons why other results may not be able to be released as rapidly as we would like, given the pandemic and rapid breakdown in communication with colleagues in Wuhan, but of course, that won't stop these folks trying to cause problems and get a story out.

Hope you're able to brief folks who need to know that 1) we're aware of these accusations; 2) we won't be speaking in detail to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022310
MORENS_NIH_043211
REL0000479717

the press about them; 3) we will be giving very short statements if we have to that clearly push back in the way I've outlined above, via our EHA spokesperson – Robert Kessler. We believe the story tonight might be a bit more aggressive than yesterday, but for anyone who understands this work, it does not prove GoF.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:48 PM
To: 'Kristian G. Andersen' <b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 >; 'Garry, Robert F' <b6 'Edward Holmes' <
b6 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' <b6
Robert Kessler b6 >; 'Stephen Goldstein' b6
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022311
MORENS_NIH_043212
REL0000479717

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Garry, Robert F b6 Edward Holmes < b6 Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie b6 Robert Kessler b6 >; Stephen Goldstein b6
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak b6 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022312
MORENS_NIH_043213
REL0000479717

We are publishing them in full. With
@fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release



New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence”
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989-understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988-risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h
There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022313
MORENS_NIH_043214
REL0000479717

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY [b6]
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Garry, Robert F [b6]; Kristian G. Andersen [b6]; Edward Holmes [b6]; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]
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 [b6] wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022314
MORENS_NIH_043215
REL0000479717

USA

Tel.: +1[b6] [b6] [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen <[b6]>; Edward Holmes <[b6]
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; [b6]
[b6] [b6]
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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes <[b6]
Cc: Jason Gale [b6]
[b6]
[b6] [b6]; Garry, Robert F [b6]
[b6]
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 [b6] 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:) <
> > [b6] wrote:
> >
> > Just FYI

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022315
MORENS_NIH_043216
REL0000479717

https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new-details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022316
MORENS_NIH_043217
REL0000479717

Date:	Wed, 6 Oct 2021 2:46:00 AM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 6 Oct 2021 2:42:50 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: 3rd batch of emails part 2 of 2
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	David Morens [b6] Gerald Jerry Keusch [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
CC:	Robert Kessler [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments:	Bizarre witness list! RE_ House Select Subcommittee Republicans Anno....eml (41.3 KB).msg; RE_ Interview request_ CNN _ Jesse Bloom preprint.eml (38.1 KB).msg; RE_ Wash Examiner_ Trump COVID testing czar testifies coronavirus mo....eml (31.4 KB).msg; RE_ Hi David.eml (34.8 KB).msg; RE_ Vanity Fair_ The Lab-Leak Theory_ Inside the Fight to Uncover COV....eml (251 KB).msg; attachment; filename=_RE_ Wpost_ A scientist adventurer and China's....eml_ (75.6 KB).msg; RE_ FW_ OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do....eml (45.9 KB).msg; RE_ Axios_ Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigat....eml (59.8 KB).msg; RE_ Axios_ Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigat....eml (58.4 KB).msg; RE_ Axios_ Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigat....eml (53.1 KB).msg; RE_ CNN_ Chinese state media is turning on Fauci amid Wuhan lab cont....eml (24.1 KB).msg; RE_ Dr. Rand Paul Stops Gain-of-Function Research Funding in China.eml (23.6 KB).msg; RE_ Holy Jesus!.eml (1.37 KB).msg; RE_ WSJ_ Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covi....eml (168 KB).msg; RE_ National Pulse_ EXC_ Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan La....eml (589 KB).msg; RE_ Not to be shared, see attachment.eml (98.4 KB).msg; RE_ Not to be shared, please.....eml (97.3 KB).msg; RE_ Atlantic_ Biden Has to Get Ahead of the Lab-Leak Theory.eml (108 KB).msg; RE_ Just the News_ Virologist_ NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronaviru....eml (48.0 KB).msg; Whether to laugh....or cry!.eml (170 KB).msg; Details of BSL-2_3_4 levels for viral cultures.eml (59.5 KB).msg; RE_ Just the News_ Virologist_ NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronaviru....eml (34.9 KB).msg; RE_ Donald G. McNeil Jr._ How I Learned to Stop Worrying And Love the....eml (225 KB).msg; RE_ and there's more....eml (62.6 KB).msg; RE_ Hugh Hewitt_ NIH Director Francis Collins On Gain of Function Re....eml (57.0 KB).msg; RE_ Hugh Hewitt_ NIH Director Francis Collins On Gain of Function Re....eml (47.7 KB).msg; RE_ Daily Caller_ Republicans Introduce Bill To Cut Off Funding For W....eml (451 KB).msg; RE_ WSJ COVID origins article today.eml (797 KB).msg; RE_ WSJ COVID origins article today.eml (22.3 KB).msg; RE_ Telegraph_ Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic....eml (219 KB).msg; RE_ [SPAM]FW_ Wash Times_Navarro_ Is Dr. Fauci the 'Father of the Pa....eml (76.9 KB).msg; RE_ Senate HELP hearing on Protecting U.S. Biomedical Research_ Effo....eml (22.7 KB).msg; RE_ EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here..eml (65.8 KB).msg; RE_ EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here..eml (67.6 KB).msg; EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here..eml (63.8 KB).msg

2nd part of 3rd batch: April 1st 2021 to July 1st 2021

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:55 AM
To: 'David Morens b6 >; Gerald "Jerry" Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Cc: 'Robert Kessler b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 b6
Subject: 3rd batch of emails

In this lot (1st Jan to 1st July 2021 includes emails where:

- You both make political comments and criticize the Trump admin, Collins etc.
- I call Peter Navarro an 'idiot' or something
- I call Rand Paul some slightly offensive name
- Discussion of gain of function attacks
- Various comments from me about WHO work etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Mon, 23 Aug 2021 12:54:49 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 23 Aug 2021 12:54:28 PM -0400
Subject:	Confidential - WHO international team members have a commentary coming out in tomorrow's Nature
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Garry, Robert F b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC:	David Morens b6 Jason Gale b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 Kristian Andersen b6
Attachments:	Koopmans et al. Comment Covid Origins Nature 2021.pdf

Just as an FYI (Jason – this is "off-the-record") – we have a commentary in Nature that's under embargo until Wednesday 25th August 11am Eastern. I expect reporters will be contacting you about it, and wanted to let you see it first.

I've attached it here so you can see what we're saying – it's carefully worded to be as apolitical and non-controversial as possible. It was written as a response to the WHO DG deciding to move from the previous plan of the Phase 1 group continuing its work into Phase 2, to the current call for a new structure and a focus on the lab leak/audit. Our major concerns are that this will (has!) stalled progress, and the key messages from our point of view are that:

- the search for the origins is important and needs to continue
- since our report, we feel that most attention has gone to debates regarding likelihood of a lab leak, at the cost of progress in other areas
- we should all be concerned that time passing - in part owing to these discussions – and this could close the window of opportunity for some critical studies
- there are critical issues to deal with that are laid out in the report as recommendations for Phase 2: tracking back from the market, following new leads from the recent paper on mammals in the market, representative wild animal and farmed wild animal surveys, and comparative serosurveys in all regions where there has been evidence of early circulation.
- the lab audit - as added- will need to be developed to define questions. The smallpox audit example cited by WHO in their press addresses biosafety and biosecurity for that pathogen, but would not necessarily help identify evidence for a lab leak. Developing those studies, and agreeing them with China may take of lot of time and that these should not lead to further delays for the other recommended studies

I'm trying to stay out of publicity as much as possible, but hope you are being asked to comment and will do so!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garry, Robert F [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net> [b6]
[b6]
Subject: Re: Use this thread to respond! Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

Thank you Peter - I think this week is going to be a critical week for science. Bob G

Sent from my iPhone
On Aug 23, 2021, at 7:24 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.
>
> Hi all – just catching up with emails after a few days off and wanted to make sure you don't get caught out in FoIAs – Above is David Morens' gmail address that's not Foia-ble. Also I've taken Peter Ben Embarek and Maria Van Kerkhove off this email chain in case they were put on accidentally, and so no one gets caught out criticizing them!
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: [b6]
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
> **Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
> **To:** Jason Gale <j.g[b6]>
> **Cc:** [b6]
> [b6]; Garry, Robert F [b6]
> **Subject:** Re: Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'
>
> TY, i think this is different from the article in The Economist a week or two ago? That one was interesting as i recall.,.. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021874
MORENS_NIH_042756
REL0000479720

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2021, at 03:08, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

In case you missed it, FYI.
Seems to lay things out well. I feel sorry for the int'l team. They didn't decide on/agree to the terms of reference, so the response from the DG on the final report (which he waited for until weighing in) seems disingenuous to me.

From: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 16:40:56 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

"The virus mystery" broadcast on August 12th, drew uncommonly wide attention for a Danish television documentary. That was because it featured Peter Ben Embarek, an expert on food security and zoonotic diseases, casting doubt on the conclusions of a "joint study" on the origins of the covid-19 pandemic carried out earlier this year under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (who). Dr Ben Embarek was the senior who figure who went to China as part of that study.

In March the joint study reported that it was "extremely unlikely" that the virus had been released in a laboratory accident. Dr Ben Embarek revealed that this conclusion did not come from a balanced assessment of all the relevant evidence but from a steadfast refusal by the Chinese members of the joint study to support anything stronger. Indeed they only allowed even that minimal assessment on the condition that the report did not call for further investigation into the question. He also pointed out that the idea that the point of spillover was someone collecting bat samples for research purposes belongs in the "likely" basket, along with other human interactions with wild bats.

Problems in the joint study had long been clear. Within the
who one source describes it as "riddled with compromises and sloppiness". Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the
who's director-general, was uneasy about the way it was carried out. He pushed back at the marginalisation of the lab-leak hypothesis, particularly when the final report was released in March. He has since called for further investigations into it, as well as into other possibilities.

The further unravelling of the joint study matters because, more than a year and a half after the covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan, a city in Hubei, was first recognised as the work of a new pathogen, there has been nothing like a thorough international investigation of how that pathogen,
sars-cov-2, got into humans and spread round the world. The pandemic's death toll stands at 9m-18m, according to a model which *The Economist* has built on the basis of excess-mortality reports and other indicators. The question of how it started matters both for the relatives of the dead and for those who wish to prevent such an outbreak happening again. China's efforts to stop the world from answering it are both shabby and, to an extent, self-defeating. The more the truth seems hidden, the more it seems suspicious.

Earnest calls for an international investigation into the origins of covid-19 began in April 2020, voiced most clearly by Scott Morrison, the prime minister of Australia.

The next month the World Health Assembly, the gathering of government representatives which serves as the
who's decision-making body, passed a motion calling for a study into the origins of the pandemic. But in order to be acceptable to China—which had reacted furiously to Mr Morrison's original suggestion—the work was set up as a joint research project between two teams of scientists, one Chinese, one international. And it was to be based on "scientific and collaborative field missions", rather than a targeted and forensic inquiry into all the relevant circumstances.

The terms of reference, which were subsequently negotiated behind closed doors, allowed the Chinese hosts to frame the joint study's work in the way which best suited them. The study was set up to build on pre-existing Chinese research, not to delve into unvetted data. Investigating the laboratories that had been working with coronaviruses like
sars-cov-2 in Wuhan was not part of its terms of reference.

After a lot of wrangling, the international team got to China in January this year. Data about the first reported covid-19 cases, those from December 2019, were one subject of friction with their hosts. The Chinese had reported 174 such cases, but would not share the underlying data on which those reports were based. Hearing that these vital data were not being made available worried Dr Tedros enough that he lobbied the Chinese government for access. The authorities declined, citing concerns over citizens' privacy. It could have been anonymised.

Elsewhere the team appears to have been knowingly misled. Take, for example, the live-animal trade at the Huanan seafood and wildlife market, a site associated with a number of Wuhan's earliest recorded cases of covid-19. In its final report, the study group took at face value claims there was no credible evidence that live mammals were sold there in 2019. A lot of eyewitness accounts gainsay that; so does a study published in *Scientific Reports*, a journal, this summer.

One report and no more

The *Scientific Reports* paper found that 18 species of mammal had been for sale in Wuhan between May 2017 and November 2019; gunshot wounds and trapping injuries suggested that almost a third of them were taken from the wild. Although the paper was published only recently, it was submitted to the journal in October 2020. Chinese law requires that all covid-19 research be reviewed by the government before it is sent to a journal. Some Chinese authorities would have known of its contents before the team arrived.

The market is not the only way for animals and the pathogens they carry to get into Wuhan. The horseshoe bats in which the closest wild relatives to
sars-cov-2 have been found do not live anywhere near the city, but the two laboratories there that were known to have engaged in coronavirus research received samples from bat caves around the country. The joint-study team was not allowed to investigate the procedures around, or documentation of, this research; when it visited the laboratories the team was shown presentations on safety procedures but no more.



When the researchers left Wuhan the
who
's Geneva headquarters told them that their report needed to be laid out scientifically and could express dissenting opinions; the international members and the Chinese members did not have to reach a consensus. However, according to sources within the
who
, the team felt committed to producing a joint report with their Chinese counterparts. Dr Tedros was so unhappy with what finally emerged from the processes that he nobbled the report as it left the starting blocks, rejecting its contention that the possibility of a lab leak needed no further investigation.
On May 26th President Joe Biden ordered America's intelligence services to report

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021877
MORENS_NIH_042759
REL0000479720

on the pandemic's origins in 90 days (time will be up on August 24th). When he and his fellow
g7
leaders met in June they joined in calling for a timely, transparent and science-based follow-up study. On July 16th Dr Tedros laid out the next steps which the
who
wants to see taken. They include further work on the Wuhan animal markets, studies of early cases and audits of local laboratories.

The Chinese government has reacted angrily to the idea of further studies on its territory. Zeng Yixin, the vice-minister of China's National Health Commission, said he was "shocked" by the plan to investigate a lab leak, saying it was "impossible" to accept. According to the *Global Times*, a tub-thumping tabloid run by the Communist Party, 55 countries have sent written complaints about the proposal for further investigations to the
who
. Dr Tedros, elected director-general with China's support in 2017 and derided by President Donald Trump as China's puppet, may now face a Chinese-backed candidate when he looks for reappointment later this year.

In the absence of any hope that China will co-operate, sources of data beyond its control have become increasingly important. One area of interest is genetic sequence data. Another is early cases exported from China.

See what you did there

An online open-source-intelligence group which calls itself
drastic
has been scouring sequencing data to get insight into activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (wiv). When researchers publish sequences they typically post the raw data from which those sequences are assembled to public databases such as the sequence-read archive at America's National Centre for Biotechnology Information. Contamination events in the laboratory, or within sequencing machines themselves, mean these data sometimes contain sequences not meant to be there. In theory such evidence could reveal nefarious goings-on.

Such work, while promising, takes a lot of resources. If you have the sort of supercomputers available to America's national labs it gets easier. Gilles Demaneuf, a data scientist who works with
drastic
, says he has a hunch the American intelligence community's 90-day study is working the same angle. It is conceivable that the intelligence services might have been able to filch raw sequence reads directly from Chinese sequencing machines, thus picking up even more data.

Sequencing data only offers a way forward if the virus did indeed leak out of a lab, something which remains a possibility but which is far from proven. The study of early cases should be useful whatever route it took; the closer you get to understanding the when and where of the crossing-over from animal to human, the easier it should be to learn something of the how.

On the basis of information provided by China the joint study concluded it was unlikely for there to have been any substantial transmission in Wuhan before December 2019. That is unlikely to be true. For one thing the *South China Morning Post*, a newspaper based in Hong Kong, obtained government documents in 2020 which showed one to five new cases a day in Wuhan from November 17th 2019 onwards. Further evidence has strengthened the possibility that the virus could have been in circulation much earlier than the official story allows.

That circulation need not have been limited to China. There is increasing evidence

suggesting early infections elsewhere. These cases would have been exported from China; no virologists doubt that Hubei was where the virus got going within humans. But if circulation in Hubei goes back further than thought and cannot be directly assessed through studies there, the presence of cases elsewhere offers an alternative way to get an idea of the timing. If a specific travel link were identified, that might help identify a group in Hubei which was infected early on.

A recent study of blood samples from 9,144 adults in 12 different regions of France found seven which contained antibodies against sars-cov-2, all of them taken in November 2019. An Italian lung-cancer screening trial has found samples taken in September 2019 which seem to contain anti-sars-cov-2 antibodies. Another antibody study suggests the virus was circulating at a low level in northern Italy at the same time, notably in Lombardy, a region which has close connections to Wuhan through the garment trade, and saw Europe's first major outbreak of covid-19 in March 2020. Antibody tests can give false positives. In a preprint published on August 6th by the *Lancet*, researchers in Lombardy reported on looking instead for sars-cov-2 gene sequences. Examining 289 swabs and urine tests taken from people who had presented with a rash as far back as the second half of 2019, they found sars-cov-2 sequences in 13, the earliest of which was taken on September 12th.

Sudhir Kumar of Temple University in Philadelphia says the *Lancet* preprint is likely to inspire other investigators to go back and look at retrospective hospital samples. That should help his own research into the origins of the virus. A family tree Dr Kumar and his colleagues have built from vast numbers of published sars-cov-2 genomes allows them to predict the sequence of the progenitor virus from which they are all descended. This sequence differs in three places from that found in the earliest samples taken from patients in Wuhan, meaning there had been enough spread for a certain amount of viral mutation to take place before December. Dr Kumar says that an analysis of the Lombardy sequences suggests that the timeline for the origin of the virus in China might now extend back to the late summer.

More systematic international research into these early infections and their circumstances is needed. Maria Van Kerkhove, head of emerging diseases and zoonoses at the who, suggests it may be possible to prioritise work in areas which saw the earliest outbreaks in America, France, Italy and Spain. "I think the floodgates will open one day," says Dr Kumar.

A last line of light

An early origin would fit with the timeline that lab-leak proponents tend to favour. Early this August, the minority Republican staff on the House foreign-affairs committee released an 84-page report arguing this case. It makes much of a small but deadly disease outbreak which took place at an abandoned copper mine in Yunnan in 2012. As drastic showed last year, a virus studied at WIV which had been taken from that mine is the closest known relative to sars-cov-2. The report sees importance in the removal, on September 12th 2019, of a database containing details of sequences and samples from the wiv. This is read as the beginning of a cover-up, and thus as the point when the authorities first knew something had gone amiss, arguing for a leak in late August or early September. The wiv says it was a response to cyber-attacks.

A leak is not the only research-related possibility. The first person infected could have been someone employed by the

wiv
or another lab to collect bats and samples—the prospect to which Dr Ben Embarek pointed in his television interview. And it is important to remember that some other form of spillover outside the lab, either directly from a bat or by way of some other species, may well be to blame.
China clearly does not want lab-leaks investigated; but that does not mean it knows one happened. It is also being misleading about Huanan market, denying access to early-case data and obfuscating in various other non-lab-leak-specific ways. The most obvious explanation is that it does not really want any definitive answer to the question. An unsanitary market, a reckless bat-catcher or a hapless spelunker would not be as bad in terms of blame as a source in a government laboratory. But any definite answer to the origin question probably leaves China looking bad, unless it can find a way to blame someone else. To that end China has called for an investigation of Fort Detrick in Maryland, historically the home of American bioweapons research; state media regularly publish speculations about its involvement.
The possibility of spillover from wild bats does not have to be studied in China. Yunnan abuts onto Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, and bats are not sticklers in matters of territory. Samples taken outside China could provide a good idea of viral diversity the other side of the border. A thorough evaluation of the existing farm-animal and wildlife trade in the region would also be useful.
Yet there is an inherent risk in such work that needs to be considered. Efforts to uncover the roots of covid-19 by seeking out a natural reservoir of something very like
sars-cov-2 would, by definition, expose people to the sort of risks that can seed pandemics. Ironically, the very possibility of a lab leak raises questions about how most safely to pursue investigations into other possibilities.

When he called for further inquiries in July, Dr Tedros also announced the formation of a new permanent group of pathogen hunters, the International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens (sago). He wants it to organise further studies of
sars-cov-2. But it will also need to look at more general questions for the future—such as how to be sure that, come what may, studies of pathogens involved in past disease outbreaks never create further outbreaks of their own.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 14:34:52 UTC+8:00
To: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

I saw. But it's behind a paywall. U have full access?

From: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 16:23:52 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

icymi

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021880
MORENS_NIH_042762
REL0000479720

From: (b) (6) At: 08/22/21 15:23:17 UTC+8:00
To: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

The Economist | Putting it all together

https://www.economist.com/international/2021/08/19/the-world-needs-a-proper-investigation-into-how-covid-19-started?frsc=dg%7Ce

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 5:29:46 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 20 May 2021 5:29:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] David Morens [b6] >;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

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 [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 2:29 PM
To: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6] >
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: [b6]
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 2:15 PM
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6], "Roberts, Rich" [b6], Aleksei Chmura <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014203
MORENS_NIH_026811
REL0000479728

b6 Robert Kessler b6 "Taubenberger, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
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 b6 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 b6
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:57 AM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; David Morens b6
Cc: Aleksei b6 g >; Robert Kessler b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014204
MORENS_NIH_026812
REL0000479728

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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

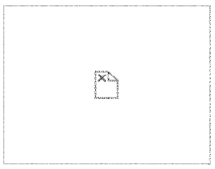
This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014205
MORENS_NIH_026813
REL0000479728

Date:	Wed, 3 Apr 2024 3:03:50 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
From:	David Morens [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] peter hotez [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Attachments:	image001.png; image001.png

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** [b6]
Date: Wed, Apr 3, 2024, 14:25
Subject: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
To:



Press Release **Published:** Apr 2, 2024

Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

WASHINGTON — Today, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) invited the respective Editors-in-Chief of *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* to testify before the Select Subcommittee on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The hearing seeks to examine any potential inappropriate influence exerted by the federal government over research publications related to COVID-19 and ensure that the federal government is not granted undue access to the scientific review process during a future health crisis.

Science, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* serve as critical information hubs for top scientific research across the world and individually publish articles that are cited millions of times each year. After the publication of the highly controversial, "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2" ("Proximal Origin") paper — which wrongly downplayed and vilified the lab leak hypothesis during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic — concerns arose regarding the suppression of scientific discourse by federal health officials in the United States. The Select Subcommittee has obtained evidence that indicates *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* were in communication with federal government officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins.

"*Millions of people worldwide relied on Science, Nature, and The Lancet to provide scientifically accurate and impartial research during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, documents show that the federal*

government may have censored and manipulated the sacred scientific review processes at these journals to progress their preferred narrative about the origins of COVID-19. Should these world-renowned scientific journals have done more to protect scientific discourse and ensure the peer review process was completed without outside influence? The Select Subcommittee expects the invited Editors-in-Chief to attend this hearing and address concerns that their research was inappropriately influenced by a political agenda," **said Chairman Wenstrup.**

Read the letters to Science, Nature, and The Lancet below:

- Editor-in-Chief of *Science*, Dr. Holden Thorp
- Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, Dr. Magdelena Skipper
- Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet*, Dr. Richard Horton

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 11 Jun 2024 5:58:13 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 11 Jun 2024 5:58:12 PM -0400
Subject: Aleksei Chmura shared "Sharing Folder June 2024" with you
From: Aleksei Chmura (via Dropbox) <no-reply@dropbox.com>
To: (b) (6)



EHA

Hi David,

Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) invited you to edit the folder "**Sharing Folder June 2024**" on Dropbox.

Go to folder

Enjoy!
The Dropbox team



Report to Dropbox

© 2024 Dropbox

MORENS_NIH_048047
REL0000479739

Date: Tue, 7 May 2024 11:41:18 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 7 May 2024 11:41:12 AM -0400
Subject: RE: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance
From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6] Keith Martin [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;

Peter:

That is terrible. I am so sorry to hear about this. The Republicans and the whole political system is in such disarray that it is increasingly difficult to believe we live in a democracy.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 11:22 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]
Keith Martin [b6] David Morens [b6]>
Subject: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6; Keith Martin b6; David Morens <
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital

Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 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

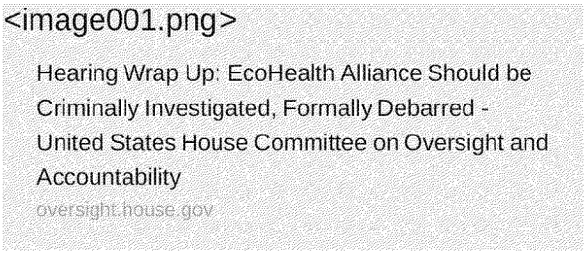
From: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6

Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch <[b6]>; Keith Martin [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>

Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

" **The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."**



I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:
>
> Excellent article!
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: [b6] [b6]
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email [b6]

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Gerald Keusch b6 Keith Martin b6>; David Morens b6
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

MORENS_NIH_044946
REL0000479741

Date:	Fri, 27 Aug 2021 2:15:16 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 27 Aug 2021 2:15:10 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: The good, the bad, and the ugly
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Peter:

I guess he wouldn't approve of my suggestion to close all Law Schools and make the students go to Medical School instead, where they might actually do something useful.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 12:28 PM
To: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Subject: FW: The good, the bad, and the ugly
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I just wanted to share a couple of articles – Op Eds re the Intel report on COVID origins. The First is actually positive and balanced from today's Guardian
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/27/us- report-covid-origins-pandemic-virus-covid

It includes the comment:
"The false dichotomy that has been set up over Covid's origins is hard to challenge. Until a year ago, scientists who collaborated across national and disciplinary borders were applauded. Now they're accused of conflicts of interest – meaning that many of the people who know most about what happened, or are best qualified to find out, have been silenced. Meanwhile the behemoth that is the global livestock industry goes about its toxic business untroubled by any real scrutiny."

The bad/ugly is below this one, from yesterday's WSJ from Mike Pompeo, calling on lawyers to decide COVID origins – years of litigation will illuminate the truth according to the former Secretary of State. I realize he's grandstanding and may be using this hardline talk to put in a bid for President in 3 yrs, but it's very worrying for me to think that one day EcoHealth Alliance, and myself could be under criminal investigation for doing what we were supposed to do as scientists.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid- 19-coronavirus-origin-fsia-foreign-sovereign-immunities-act-china-lab-leak-wet-market-11629990917

The Guardian

The US report into Covid's origins is little use in averting another pandemic

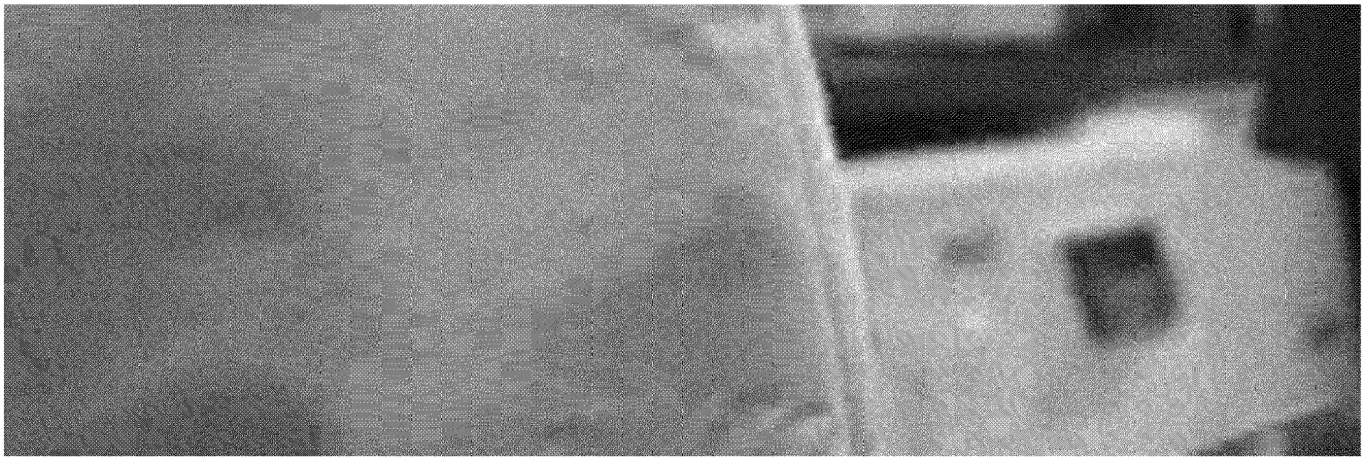
Laura Spinney

Regardless of where the virus came from, there's a growing risk of another Covid-like phenomenon occurring

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022047
MORENS_NIH_042940
REL0000479749



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022048
MORENS_NIH_042941
REL0000479749



‘Biden ordered the latest investigation partly because of widespread dissatisfaction with one set up by the World Health Organization (WHO).’ Photograph: Evan Vucci/AP

Fri 27 Aug 2021 11.20 EDT

US intelligence services have just briefed the president, Joe Biden, on the results of their 90-day investigation into the origins of Covid-19. They were asked to test two hypotheses: that it had a “natural” origin, or that it escaped from a lab. Preliminary reports suggest that their findings are inconclusive.

Few scientists will be surprised by this, and yet the investigation has been the subject of intense – and intensely divisive – political and media interest over the past three months. The White House has promised more detail, which could be illuminating, especially if it reveals the genetic sequences of viruses related to the one that causes Covid-19, Sars-CoV-2, that were being studied in labs in Wuhan in 2019. But that won’t change the fact that two investigations down, we’re still in the dark as to how this pandemic started.

Biden ordered the latest investigation partly because of widespread dissatisfaction with one set up by the World Health Organization (WHO), which reported in March that a lab origin was “extremely unlikely”. Many saw the WHO’s efforts as compromised because China used its influence within the organisation to set restrictive terms of reference. It’s hard to see why the new investigation, from a single nation locked in a trade war with China, and from intelligence services to boot – not a source often lauded for transparency – should be accorded any more credibility. It should have been conducted by a coalition of national science academies. They still might not have reached any firm conclusions, but they would have had more chance of being seen as independent.

The WHO is promising a new investigation, and there may be others. Whether these will add anything is again questionable, but it’s important that scientists continue to try to get at the truth, and that we all acknowledge that it might take them years to do so. It’s difficult to trace the origins of a pandemic. Here’s just one example of the challenges.

Much has been made of the finding that some Italians may have been carrying antibodies to Sars-CoV-2

as early as September 2019, several months before the first cases of Covid-19 were reported in China. (Nobody's suggesting the pandemic started in Italy, only that it might have come out of China earlier than thought.) But if those antibodies really were to Sars-CoV-2 – which some researchers doubt – it's odd that the wave of Covid-19 infection they indicate wasn't followed by a wave of hospitalisations and deaths, as it was later in China. What's more, those antibody carriers didn't go to the doctor with Covid symptoms, they went for other reasons. If the earliest Chinese cases were also mild or asymptomatic, how will researchers find them?

To be clear, the only reason these investigations are valuable is scientific – because the knowledge they provide could help prevent something similar from happening again. Even if it could be proved to many people's satisfaction that a lab accident triggered the pandemic, it's unlikely that any punishment could be meted out or compensation demanded. As Thomas Bollyky and Yanzhong Huang of the US Council on Foreign Relations have written, a lab accident is not a violation of any international law, and even if it were, establishing causation would be tricky. As they point out, taking the US perspective: "Many nations faced similar challenges in this pandemic and did not suffer the United States' poor health outcomes."

The ongoing debate over Covid's origins has had good and bad outcomes. A good outcome is that it has shone a spotlight on the fact that, as biosecurity experts Filippa Lentzos and Gregory Koblentz reported in May, labs authorised to deal with the most dangerous pathogens have been proliferating in an almost complete vacuum of regulation or oversight. One component of the oversight that should now be put in place is independent, international inspection teams. A model already exists for these, in the WHO's protocol for overseeing the two labs – one Russian, one American – that hold the last stockpiles of variola virus, which causes the now eradicated disease smallpox.

A bad outcome is that at least part of the scientific community – supposedly the bulwark that protects us from propaganda – has bought into the false dichotomy of two "rival" hypotheses for Covid's origins. It 's as if they were looking at one of those ambiguous images, and seeing either a duck or a rabbit when both are in the picture. In reality it isn't natural origins versus lab leak; it's long-term human activity versus short-term human activity. Natural ceases to mean much in this context.

Fire, waves and warfare: the way we make sense of Covid

Read more

In fact, since the evidence is by now overwhelmingly that long-term human activity is accelerating the emergence of novel pathogens and increasing the risk of pandemics, the question investigators should really be asking is: did some recent, one-off event such as a lab accident exacerbate the already high and growing risk of spillover of a virus with pandemic potential caused by a decades-long shift towards industrialised farming and the wildlife trade?

Through their reliance on antibiotics, livestock monocultures and crowding, industrial-scale farms are ratcheting up the virulence of animal pathogens that the wildlife trade – and one of its shop windows, wet markets – is bringing into contact with potential host species they wouldn't otherwise encounter, including us. This is not news. As the journalist Felicity Lawrence wrote in 2009, during the swine flu pandemic: "Novel human disease is the toxic debt of today's industrial livestock farming."

Here's something worth reflecting on: in recent decades, most spillover events of highly pathogenic avian influenza – still considered the disease most likely to cause a future pandemic – occurred in countries with generally good biosecurity but lots of intensive poultry farming. The reason more of them didn't seed outbreaks is that they were nipped in the bud through good disease surveillance – the US being a leader in this. If high-security labs are enjoying a boom, prestige and biowarfare deterrence may have something to do with it, but it's also because dangerous pathogens are booming.

The false dichotomy that has been set up over Covid's origins is hard to challenge. Until a year ago, scientists who collaborated across national and disciplinary borders were applauded. Now they're accused of conflicts of interest – meaning that many of the people who know most about what happened,

or are best qualified to find out, have been silenced. Meanwhile the behemoth that is the global livestock industry goes about its toxic business untroubled by any real scrutiny. This week, Marco Marani of the University of Padova in Italy and colleagues reported that the probability of an individual experiencing a Covid-like pandemic in their lifetime, currently about 38%, could double within a few decades. Unless scientists stand back and look at the bigger picture, it won't stop there.

Laura Spinney is a science journalist and the author of Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it Changed the World

Here's the bad/ugly from Mike Pompeo yesterday..

Let Lawyers Hunt for Covid's Origin

The report from the intelligence community is equivocal, but spies don't have subpoena power.

By Mike Pompeo and David B. Rivkin Jr.

Aug. 26, 2021 12:59 pm ET

SAVE
PRINT
TEXT
213

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022051
MORENS_NIH_042944
REL0000479749

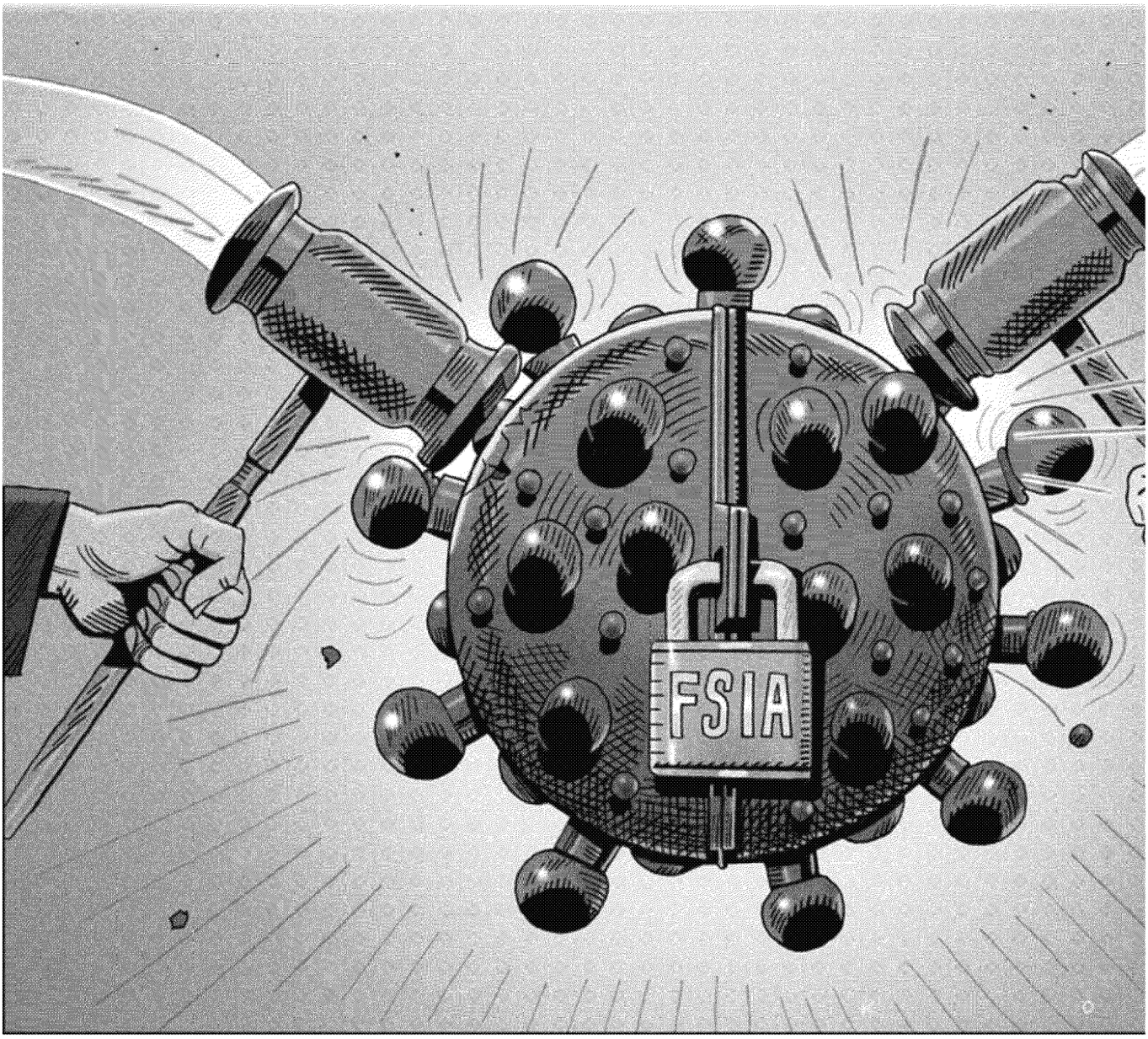


PHOTO: MARTIN KOZLOWSKI

Listen to article

Length 7 minutes

Queue

Will we ever know where Covid-19 came from? Not if the last word comes from the U.S. intelligence community, which reported to the White House this week that China's fault is plausible but unprovable. Beijing has refused to cooperate with inquiries, which it has characterized as "origin tracing terrorism." The Chinese Foreign Ministry even denounced the equivocal intelligence report: "If they want to baselessly accuse China, so they better be prepared to accept the counterattack from China."

For the rest of the world, getting to the bottom of the question is essential to assigning blame and preventing pandemics. Fortunately, we have an institution dedicated to getting to the bottom of thorny factual disputes: the U.S. judicial system. Our judiciary is respected globally for its impartiality and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022052
MORENS_NIH_042945
REL0000479749

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022053
MORENS_NIH_042946
REL0000479749

Defendants in U.S. legal proceedings are ordinarily entitled to bring counterclaims and spread liability to other potential defendants. Beijing has accused the U.S. military of creating the Covid-19 virus at the Army's Fort Detrick, Md., lab and introducing it during the 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan, in which a U.S. team participated. To ensure that Beijing is accorded every opportunity to defend itself, including bringing counterclaims against the U.S., the Biden administration should waive governmental immunity, a step it can take unilaterally without statutory changes. Let Beijing test its implausible theory in court.

China wouldn't be able to ignore lawsuits in American courts, given its close commercial ties with the U.S. If it refused to participate, courts would enter enforceable default judgments. China would be hard-pressed to avoid complying with any court-ordered damages and injunctions. Successful plaintiffs could pursue collection actions against Chinese government-owned commercial property around the world. Corporations are not normally liable for their owners' debts, but there is an exception when the owner is involved on a day-to-day basis in running the company. Given the Chinese Communist Party's pervasive control over formally private Chinese companies, this shouldn't be difficult to prove.

It should be possible to secure broad bipartisan support for these measures. Republicans and Democrats have expressed a keen desire to hold Beijing accountable, and the Biden administration has made a priority of defending and strengthening the rules-based international order. The president has repeatedly said he wants to make sure China plays by the rules.

Chinese military publications have run articles expressing interest in developing biological weapons. China understands that bioweapons are particularly effective against open societies, where stringent isolation and quarantine measures spur resistance, and could be used to incapacitate aircraft carriers and military bases, which are crucial to the U.S. ability to project power in the Indo-Pacific. Pandemics aside, upholding international norms is essential to deterring China from other malevolent acts, including against Taiwan.

Permitting Covid-19 suits would have additional strategic benefits. In its propaganda, Beijing has sought to capitalize on its supposedly superior handling of Covid-19, claiming it demonstrates the superiority of its totalitarian political system over open, democratic society. Legal discovery could unearth information puncturing these claims.

Holding Beijing accountable would also do much to dispel its assertions that the U.S. is a declining power. While Beijing still respects U.S. military power, it routinely talks down U.S. political will and economic strength. It would face a formidable foe in an army of lawyers on an honest judicial battlefield.

Mr. Pompeo is a distinguished fellow at the Hudson Institute. He served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (2017-18) and secretary of state (2018-21). Mr. Rivkin practices appellate and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022054
MORENS_NIH_042947
REL0000479749

constitutional law in Washington. He served at the Justice Department and the White House Counsel's Office in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoIIealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 24 Apr 2024 8:41:57 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 24 Apr 2024 8:41:46 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >
To:	Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >; [b6]
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; John Feigelson [b6]
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Peter: Diamond's article is OK. June 3 is going to be a circus!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:33 PM
To: kuuipo9 [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; John Feigelson [b6]
Subject: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd
Importance: High

I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.

David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio b6 ; 'Roberts, Rich' b6 >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6 >; 'John Feigelson' b6
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: b6 ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; John Feigelson b6
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505

Here's the text of the tweet:

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

@ScienceMagazine AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19.

WATCH

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6
'Roberts, Rich' b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6

MORENS_NIH_044610
REL0000479752

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; John Feigelson [b6] >
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.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio < [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay < [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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.

MORENS_NIH_044612
REL0000479752



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeff Sturchio < b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
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.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_NIH_044614
REL0000479752

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6] [b6]>
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
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 [b6] 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 [b6]
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: [b6]
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Peter Daszak [b6]
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
> **To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]
> **Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]; 'Alison Andre' [b6]
> **Subject:** RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
> **Importance:** High
>
> I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-

MORENS_NIH_044616
REL0000479752

placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik b6
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
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

MORENS_NIH_044617
REL0000479752

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.

As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and

further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date:	Thu, 30 Jun 2022 11:21:20 AM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 30 Jun 2022 11:21:09 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >;
CC:	Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet 'Statement of support' we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as "that individual". De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he'll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here's today's gloating article by the "White Coat Waste" celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs' Lancet Commission report will now do.

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

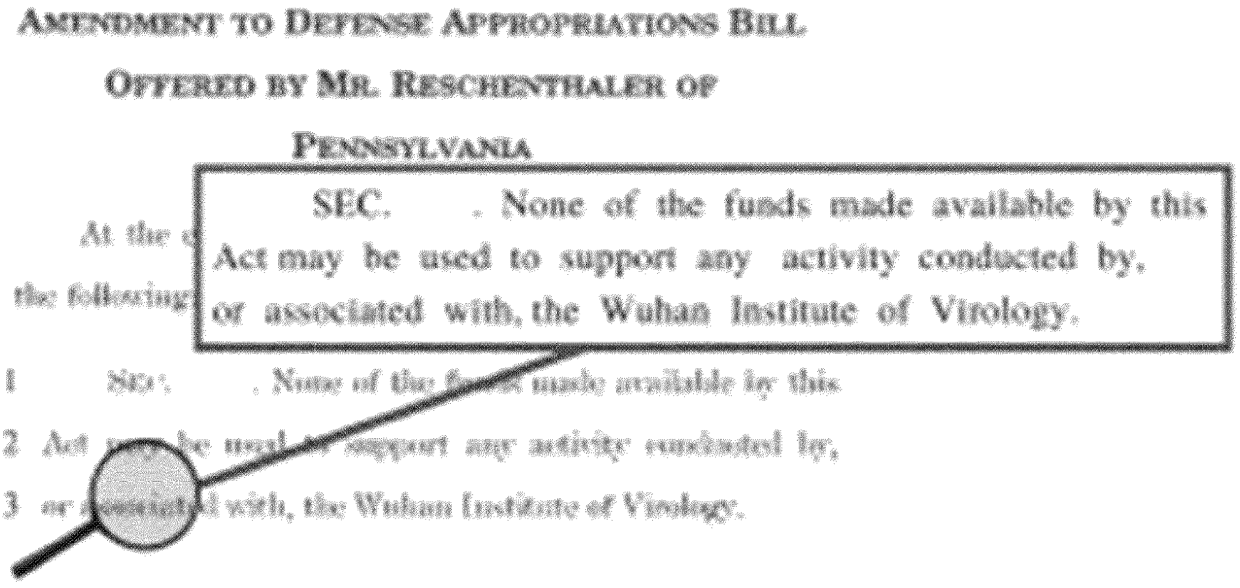
POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007782
MORENS_NIH_017060
REL0000479753

taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now **says** that the lab leak hypothesis deserves "further investigation."

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.


AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the e

the followin

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

1 SEC. . None of the funds made available by this
2 Act may be used to support any activity conducted by,
3 or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007783
MORENS_NIH_017061
REL0000479753



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_007784
MORENS_NIH_017062
REL0000479753

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <b6u>; Aleksei Chmura b6; David Morens <b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007786
MORENS_NIH_017064
REL0000479753

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: 7 b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs b6
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice

University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs b6 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 b6 wrote:

Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs { b6 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 [b6] wrote:
>
> Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.
>
> One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.
>
> Thank you! Peter
>
> **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
> Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
> Health Policy Scholar
> Baylor College of Medicine
>
> Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
> Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
>
> University Professor, Baylor University
>
> Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
> Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007791
MORENS_NIH_017069
REL0000479753

Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor
https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs < b6 wrote:
>
> Dear Peter,
>
> We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.
>
> Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay < **b6** wrote:

Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:

2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor
https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299



From: Juliana Bartels <b6
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor b6 Zinabou, Genet <
b6 Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali <
>; Alejandro Gaviria <
b6 >; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <
ottazzi, Maria Elena <
b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
b6 g <
b6 >; Lara Aknin <
b6 ; Chandrika Bahadur <
b6 >; Lauren Barredo <
b6 >; Chris Bullen <
gaby cuevas <
b6 Andrew Haines <
b6 >; Neena Joshi <
b6 >; Ozge Karadag Karadag <
; Phoebe Koundouri <
Gabriela (b) (6)
Morales, Andrés (b) (6)
b6 Francesca Colombo <
b6 >; Guillaume Lafortune <
Jeff Sachs <
b6 anis Ben Amor <
; Emma Torres <
>; George Laryea-Adjei <
>; Uyen Kim Huynh <
b6
Vaira Vike Freiberga b6 ;
b6 >; Kirsten
Brosbøl b6 ;
b6 ; Juan
Pablo Cadena b6 ; John Thwaites <
b6 >; Jong-Koo Lee <
b6 ; Booyuel Kim b6
Muhammad Ali Pate b6 ; Miriam

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007795
MORENS_NIH_017073
REL0000479753

Khamadi Were < b6 < b6 >; Marissa VanRy < b6 >; Felipe Larrain Bascuñan < b6 >; Susan Michie < b6 >; Jeffrey Lazarus < b6 >; Margaret Hellard < b6 >; Shweta Khandelwal < b6 >; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) < b6 >
Cc: Juliana Bartels < b6
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie
--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
b6

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material

and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Sat, 20 Aug 2022 12:54:57 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 20 Aug 2022 12:54:51 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
From:	"Roberts, Rich" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6; David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC:	Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' b6 'Gerald T Keusch' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6
'Roberts, Rich' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

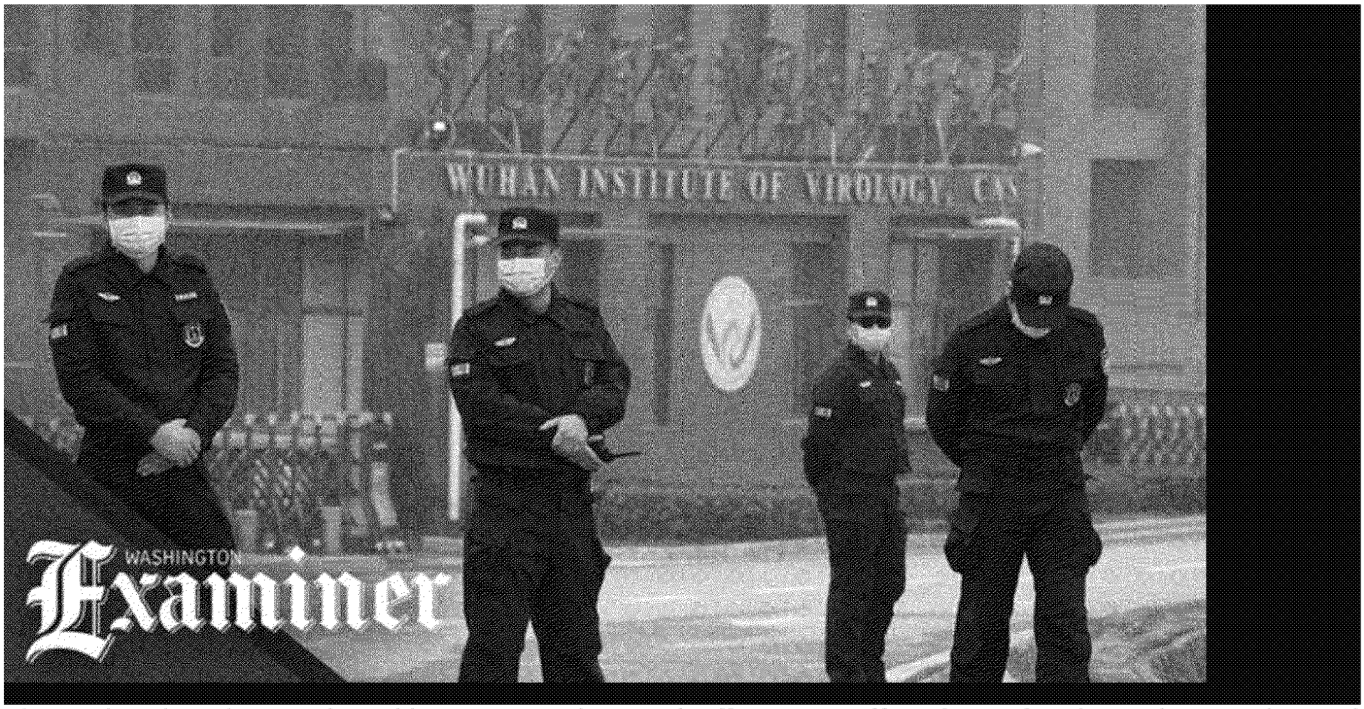
Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010497
MORENS_NIH_021016
REL0000479754

may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China. EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010498
MORENS_NIH_021017
REL0000479754

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
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 [b6] > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add). https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6]
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010500
MORENS_NIH_021019
REL0000479754

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; David Morens b6 David Morens b6 ; Gerald T Keusch b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6
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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010501
MORENS_NIH_021020
REL0000479754

b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: b6 b6



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010503
MORENS_NIH_021022
REL0000479754

Date: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 8:41:01 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>
To: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6];
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]>
Date: June 8, 2021 at 20:40:11 EDT
To: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>, "Keusch, Jerry" [b6]
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 [b6]> wrote:

Peter:

OK – let me know. Before I would write anything it would be good to know exactly what they are proposing.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020241
MORENS_NIH_040839
REL0000479759

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6]
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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E[b6]
>; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020242
MORENS_NIH_040840
REL0000479759

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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]g >
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 Keusch, Jerry b6 Roberts, Rich < b6
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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020243
MORENS_NIH_040841
REL0000479759

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 b6 g >; Keusch, Jerry (b6 Rich Roberts b6
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
b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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

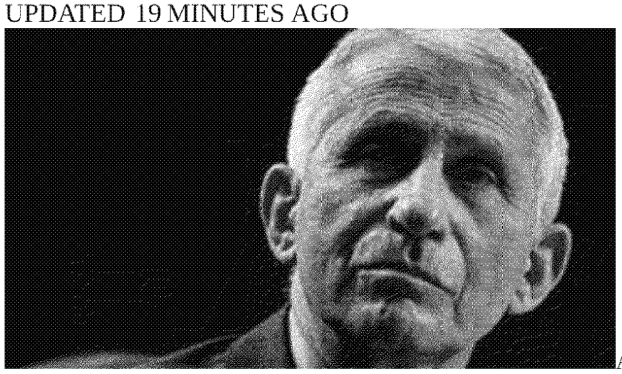
Despite Trump's new round of bullying,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020244
MORENS_NIH_040842
REL0000479759

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020245
MORENS_NIH_040843
REL0000479759

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 respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020246
MORENS_NIH_040844
REL0000479759

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 SARS, ebola, influenza and HIV — COVID-19 “originated from an animal reservoir and jumped species to humans.” He added, “There’s the possibility

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020247
MORENS_NIH_040845
REL0000479759

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
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020248
MORENS_NIH_040846
REL0000479759

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 can best get the information," he said.

Regarding his emails obtained by BuzzFeed and the Washington Post through the Freedom Of Information

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020249
MORENS_NIH_040847
REL0000479759

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
came
out
of
a
Chinese
lab.

Stressing
that
he
never
totally
discarded
the
lab
theory
—
though
he
never
thought
it
was

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020250
MORENS_NIH_040848
REL0000479759

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 Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the "lab theory" early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020251
MORENS_NIH_040849
REL0000479759

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 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020252
MORENS_NIH_040850
REL0000479759

record for COVID-19 deaths in absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was right about the China Virus coming from the Wuhan Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020253
MORENS_NIH_040851
REL0000479759

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.

Remember, Trump knew early on that COVID would be deadly — he is on tape telling author Bob Woodward this in February

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020254
MORENS_NIH_040852
REL0000479759

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
social
distance,
as
scientists
were
recommending.

As
I
wrote
at
the
time

Trump
neglected
his
main
duty
—
to
protect

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020255
MORENS_NIH_040853
REL0000479759

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 the world about the deadly virus as soon as it started.

But barring solid evidence that the virus originated from a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020256
MORENS_NIH_040854
REL0000479759

Chinese
lab,
Trump
remains
the
villain
—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:54:43 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:54:34 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru
From:	"Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >
To:	David Morens b6 b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 b6 b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6
Subject: RE: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the

Nipah Viru

I probably shouldn't even send you this sort of crap, but just want to give you a heads up from a friendly source, before someone blind-sides you. If you have a cat, you can use this paper to line the kitty litter box…..

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
- b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Subject: RE: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru

This is part of a continuing saga of BS that's something to do with how when you use a certain type of sequencing machine, you get partial bleeds from other samples including previously used. It's extremely common and not at all interesting. It's also not a 'menagerie of viruses' – these are cDNA read outs from a sequencer (or something).

I checked this out previous with Eddie Holmes, Kristian Andersen and a bunch of other well-known virology genetics folks. These people are really scraping the bottom of the barrel!

Worst of all, it's a preprint, which means it might actually get published somewhere and sully the scientific system. It happened

with another paper a few weeks ago that was published in American Chemical Society transactions or something. Zhengli, Linfa, Angela Rasmussen, Bob Garry and me wrote in demanding it be retracted – we'll see how that goes…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 b6 ; Keusch, Jerry b6 < b6
Subject: FW: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru

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
● b6 ssistant: Whitney Robinson)
●
● b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022901
MORENS_NIH_043907
REL0000479760

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:37 PM
Subject: Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Viru

Physician-Scientist Steven Quay: Forensic examination of Wuhan Institute of Virology COVID-19 patient specimens from December 2019 reveals extensive laboratory contamination, including evidence of genetic manipulation of the Nipah Virus, a BSL-4 pathogen more lethal than Ebola

News provided by
Dr. Steven Quay
Jul 26, 2021, 09:00 ET

SEATTLE, July 26, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Physician-Scientist Steven Quay and a group of international scientists have published a pre-print, available here, entitled, "CONTAMINATION OR VACCINE RESEARCH? RNA Sequencing data of early COVID-19 patient samples show abnormal presence of vectorized H7N9 hemagglutinin segment." In the paper, a forensic examination of the sequencing data from five COVID-19 bronchial lavage patient specimens reveals that the laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) was contaminated with a wide range of viruses, including Nipah virus genes in a cloning vector. Nipah is a BSL-4 pathogen with a lethality of 50% to 92%. A video summary of the paper can be found here.
The highlights of the paper are:

- Five patient specimens were sequenced by the WIV in December 2019 and were part of an early report on SARS-CoV-2 published by Dr. Zhengli Shi and colleagues (Nature 579, 270–273 (2020). This paper has been viewed over one million times, making it one of the most highly read papers on the pandemic virus.
- The most abundant contaminant is an undisclosed H7N9 influenza vaccine, which in one specimen is over six-times as

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022902
MORENS_NIH_043908
REL0000479760

abundant as SARS-CoV-2.

- The Nipah virus gene sequences were found in infectious cloning vectors of the type used for genetic manipulation.
- Nineteen other contaminants, including Japanese Encephalitis virus, HIV, human T-cell leukemia virus, and hepatitis delta virus were found.

"It was surprising to find a menagerie of deadly viruses, strange pathogens, and even honeysuckle, plant genes in patient specimens sequenced at the WIV in December 2019, especially since this patient sequencing data has been publicly available to the entire scientific community inside of the US NIH GenBank database since February 2020," stated Dr. Steven Quay, MD, PhD. "The apparent widespread contamination of the laboratory at the very time the pandemic was just beginning is of course worrisome. But more important is getting answers to these questions: Why do these patient specimens contain an unreported influenza vaccine? What was the purpose of creating an undisclosed, apparently infectious clone of the deadly Nipah virus? Is this Nipah research part of another gain-of-function research project at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?"

About the Nipah Virus

Nipah virus, scientific name *Nipah henipavirus*, is a bat-borne virus that causes an infection in humans and other animals, with a high mortality rate. Numerous disease outbreaks caused by Nipah virus have occurred in South and Southeast Asia. Symptoms from infection vary from none to fever, cough, headache, shortness of breath, and confusion. This may worsen into a coma over a day or two, and 50% to 92% of those infected die. Complications can include inflammation of the brain and seizures following recovery. At this time there is no specific treatment for Nipah virus infection nor is there a vaccine..

About Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Steven Quay has over 360 published contributions to medicine and has been cited over 10,500 times, placing him in the top 1% of scientists worldwide. He holds 87 US patents and has invented seven FDA-approved pharmaceuticals which have been prescribed to over 80 million people. He is the author of the best-selling book on surviving the pandemic, Stay Safe: A Physician's Guide to Survive Coronavirus. He is the CEO of Atossa Therapeutics Inc. (Nasdaq: ATOS), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics for oncology and infectious diseases.

He received his M.D. and Ph.D. from The University of Michigan, was a postdoctoral fellow in the Chemistry Department at MIT with Nobel Laureate H. Gobind Khorana, a resident at the Harvard-MGH Hospital, and spent almost a decade on the faculty of Stanford University School of Medicine. A TEDx talk he delivered on breast cancer prevention has been viewed over 220,000 times. His scientific manuscript entitled, "A Bayesian analysis concludes beyond a reasonable doubt that SARS-CoV-2 is not a natural zoonosis but instead is laboratory derived," has been viewed over 175,000-times. For more information, visit www.DrQuay.com

Public Relations Contact:
Dunn Pellier Media| t: b6
11620 Wilshire Blvd., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025
Jenn@dunnpelliermedia.com
nicole@dunnpelliermedia.com
SOURCE Dr. Steven Quay

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:20:15 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Tweet by Dr. Angela Rasmussen on Twitter
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** <b6
Date: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 10:14 AM
Subject: Tweet by Dr. Angela Rasmussen on Twitter
To: Peter Daszak <b6>, Aleksei Chmura <b6>, David Morens <b6>, Gerald Keusch <b6>, Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>, Rich Roberts <b6>

Dr. Angela Rasmussen
@angie_rasmussen

This error-riddled, highly selective piece by @Megankstack argues that those who refute disinformation about the origins of the pandemic actually sow it themselves.

Unfortunate that she supports this position with more disinformation.

3/28/23, 9:10 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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003640
MORENS_NIH_010548
REL0000479770

Date: Sun, 16 May 2021 2:51:57 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> Keusch, Jerry <b6> Rich Roberts <b6>
Attachments: image001.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

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.

1) 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!

2) 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?

3) 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: <b6>
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012672
MORENS_NIH_024060
REL0000479776

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
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



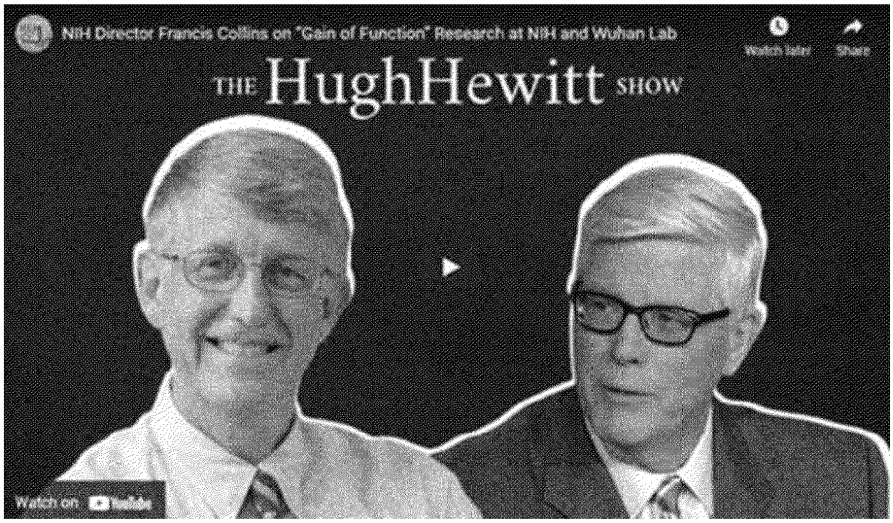
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 12:00 PM
Subject: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

THU, MAY 13, 2021 | BY HUGH HEWITT

NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012673
MORENS_NIH_024061
REL0000479776

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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012674
MORENS_NIH_024062
REL0000479776

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012675
MORENS_NIH_024063
REL0000479776

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:06 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:20 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 9:02 AM
Subject: RE: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak
b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >, Gerald T Keusch
b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 , Aleksei Chmura
b6 >

Love this quote from Angie!

“Like many of his fellow economists with Ivy League credentials but no specific expertise in biology, he suffers from the delusion that he knows what the fuck he’s talking about.”

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens
b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread

EXTERNAL SENDER

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fangie_rasmussen%2Fstatus%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=NSSyxHFWPXmoLtB0bJFdCA%2Fiewa6A6%2FTGo96x8p8M%2BM%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpca.st%2Ff4qhwghp&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=2w%2BGd2t%2Fd6abjBJEhZ6qEZd4nPhp6%2BteLixmWQVYgFE%3D &reserved=0 but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2022%2F08%2F18%2Ftinstagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=FhW%2FcU7x3V%2BfDVKvQzDOCJvFESPT1nFbtwMgvJEF1FQ%3D &reserved=0

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost

unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
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: [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio

b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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_009907
MORENS_NIH_020417
REL0000479783

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens
b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio
b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.buzzfeednews.com%2Farticle%2Fpeteralc
coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=kSWi44o0BrcjyUsHmkiOnVl6LEJSwA6bradjMy5Dp8M%3D &reserved=0

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009910
MORENS_NIH_020420
REL0000479783

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009911
MORENS_NIH_020421
REL0000479783

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' b6 >; 'Gerald T Keusch' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6 'Roberts, Rich' b6 >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonexaminer.com%2Fpolicy%2Fh
ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=mczLEQUKiXEUMP%2FskgjxMBvU7WCOwxwjMa2eJdBaRSg%3D &reserved=0

WUHAN LAB
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:26 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)

b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Date: Sun, Nov 6, 2022 at 10:30 PM
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >

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: b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill list' posted on the Right wing anonymous internet site 4Chan. Someone posted the names of 6 virologists, including myself, and encouraged people who have had enough and were ready to commit suicide, to take go out and murder this group first. Even more horrific, they named my wife (who's got a different last name to mine, so is now traceable)

and my eldest daughter, posting her name and University name also.

I'm traveling in Malaysia/Singapore with Janet this week, but have already contacted the FBI and both daughter's universities, but as you can imagine this is pretty awful, though sadly not unexpected.

I expect this will get worse after the mid-terms, when the truly heinous folks on the Right start the launch of their McCarthyesque witch hunts against scientists re. covid origins, vaccines, masks etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura
[b6]>; David Morens [b6]>
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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).

Best regards,

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Jeff:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004158
MORENS_NIH_011138
REL0000479784

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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >
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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004160
MORENS_NIH_011140
REL0000479784

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004161
MORENS_NIH_011141
REL0000479784

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004162
MORENS_NIH_011142
REL0000479784

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the Nature Medicine correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the Nature Medicine correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004163
MORENS_NIH_011143
REL0000479784

refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,

Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004164
MORENS_NIH_011144
REL0000479784

Date:	Sat, 1 May 2021 9:53:14 AM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 1 May 2021 9:47:08 AM -0400
Subject:	Political advice requested!
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC:	Robert Kessler [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Attachments:	[b6] - EHA Letter re COVID Origins.pdf; EHA letter - Attachment A.pdf; March 2021 letter to NIH Director. Republican members Energy Commerce etc..pdf

A couple of weeks ago, I received the attached letter from the Republican minority leadership of the House Energy & Commerce Committee (EHA letter re. COVID origins attached).

They're asking my 34 questions that are very detailed, all based on the lab leak conspiracy theory, and requesting answers by May 17th. They also ask to meet with me. I spoke to my lawyers who advised that I don't have to respond.

Their letter follows a letter to Francis Collins in March with similar questions. I've just seen a clip from him testifying last week where he's sucking up to these people explaining that the WHO should mount a more detailed investigation to follow up on questions we weren't able to address (exactly what's in our recommendations actually!). He then says he's preparing a detailed response to their letter to NIH. No doubt some of that response will involve handing over my 10 page response to NIH's demands for reinstatement of my grant (they ask for any response from EHA – their letter to him is attached). Here's the clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcB2W7CtvF0

The advice I'm asking is what should I do? To respond to these 34 questions would take days of work. It would take me and other staff off projects we're funded for, and get us defending conspiracy attacks for a project we're not even funded for right now, because of those attacks. My view is I can't win either way – if we don't respond, we'll be accused of hiding information or disrespecting congress. If I do respond, if fuels these conspiracies and gives them a chance to continue attacking us and undermining our work. Note that the minute these letters were sent, they were published on their websites with some innuendo and biased wording to make us look like we're in cahoots with a China-based lab release program. https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republican-leaders-request-information-from-u-s-group-affiliated-with-chinese-lab-at-center-of-covid-19-origin-investigation/

If asked about this publicly, one response could be: 1) our funding is cut and we don't have the staff to find answers to 34 detailed questions – it would take days of work; 2) these questions are not designed to find out answers to the origins of COVID, they're focused entirely on a widely debunked conspiracy that the virus originated in a lab – where are the questions on the more likely pathway of emergence from the wildlife trade?; 3) Any information I have about the origins of COVID-19 that has any relevance on further understanding these pathways was shared with the WHO on our mission, and/or is published in scientific papers (over a dozen in top journals from our work in China), or is in the process of being prepared for publication; 4) I have already sent a detailed response to NIH on their demands for similar information, in the hope that they can continue funding our work so we can get on the ground in China again and get to the bottom of the origins of COVID and identify risk of the next emerging pandemic.

I think we have a number of choices:

1) Respond to them in full
2) Set up a meeting to talk with them off the record, maybe to brief them on the origins of COVID work on the WHO committee, and what EHA is doing.
3) Send a letter with the above 4 responses (note – it would be published straight away I expect)
4) Reach out to the Majority on the committee (this is on my To Do list)
5) Do nothing (my current default)

Jerry – I'm around this weekend if you've got time to chat about this?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoIIealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Mon, 8 Mar 2021 3:21:30 PM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 8 Mar 2021 3:21:28 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: Yet another article
From:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
To:	David Morens [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Kessler Robert [b6];
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

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 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] [b6]
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Kessler Robert [b6]
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
b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6> Kessler Robert <b6 g >
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012408
MORENS_NIH_023609
REL0000479797

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Feb 25, 2021, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] 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

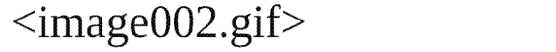
EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] Keusch, Gerald T < [b6]
Subject: FW: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding



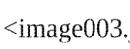
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012409
MORENS_NIH_023610
REL0000479797

b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)

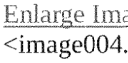
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China. Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images
The Wuhan Institute of Virology remains the most likely source of the coronavirus pandemic, yet it is set to receive US taxpayer dollars for the next three years. Worse, the cash will fund more animal research.
The National Institutes of Health told the Daily Caller that the Wuhan lab has an active Foreign Assurance file that authorizes it for US funding until 2024. When the virus first broke out, the Wuhan Institute had reportedly been testing coronaviruses in bats with $600,000 of US funding routed via the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.
The NIH terminated that EcoHealth grant, with the promise to restore it if an independent investigation cleared the Wuhan Institute of involvement in the outbreak. Now a World Health Organization delegation tasked with investigating the lab has preliminarily concluded that a leak was "extremely unlikely," which may let the contract resume. Never mind that the head of the WHO and the US State Department remain unwilling to rule out that possibility.
Here's where it gets really swampy: Not only did the WHO delegation fail to do its own investigation, merely accepting reports from China's government, the WHO team's only American member happens to be the EcoHealth Alliance's president, Peter Daszak — who demands that Washington unequivocally accept the delegation's findings. (This also tells you how pathetic the whole WHO investigation was.)
Anthony Bellotti, who heads nonpartisan watchdog group White Coat Waste Project, called for EcoHealth to be stripped of funding and asked Congress to finally conduct a real investigation into how the pandemic really started.
If this grant goes ahead, you'll know the Biden administration is committed to restoring Washington business-as-usual in all its disgusting ingloriousness.
Filed under Coronavirus , editorial , taxpayers , world health organization , 2/21/21

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012410
MORENS_NIH_023611
REL0000479797

email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012411
MORENS_NIH_023612
REL0000479797

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 5:57:16 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 5:57:07 PM -0400
Subject: The cavalry are on the way...
From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/06/15/lab- leak-theory-doesnt-hold-up-covid-china/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016692
MORENS_NIH_034840
REL0000479799

Date: Sun, 9 Jun 2024 1:59:16 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 9 Jun 2024 1:59:02 PM -0400
Subject: TWiV podcast on COVID origins not being from a lab
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]

It's great they're doing this.

I'm also talking with the AIDS activist Peter Staley this weekend who's going to try to get an Op Ed written focused on EcoHealth's horrible situation.

Please keep circulating every article you find that pushes back against this wall of conspiratorial thinking – it's awful to see how this has become mainstream in the press, and is leading to damaging political decisions. It's not just David's situation, EcoHealth's proposed debarment and the SSCP targeting Peter H. and Jeff. Sturchio, it's also now a potential poorly defined ban on 'gain-of-function' that potentially includes a catch-all for 'risky research' (not defined):

https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th- congress/senate-bill/3012

Here's the news on this – it's Senator Marshall, calling for urgent reconsideration of this bill.
https://www.marshall.senate.gov/newsroom/press- releases/senator- marshall-again-calls-for-the-immediate-halt-of-deadly-gain-of-function-research/

Marshall is the same person who accused EcoHealth of 'double-billing' for our work in China because we had a grant from NIH and one from PREDICT. We explained that this was for different lab work and research goals, but he called for an OIG investigation and we have now had the HHS OIG and the Dept State OIG asking for information for well over a year, with no end in sight.

These people are not making the world a safer place!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 12:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens < [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts <
Subject: Post by Vincent Racaniello on X



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

Date: Thu, 24 Aug 2023 11:27:37 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 24 Aug 2023 11:27:25 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: David Morens [b6]>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

If there is nothing there, no need to search further, but please don't delete them. Peter D and Jerry have such emails as well, and i will be speaking to Peter today on a Zoom call about them

At the very least, i think most of us will remember that i did ask to not send personal mails to my govt account, that i never did govt business on gmail, and that i said a number of times that i could not weigh in on govt things, eg, pushing the NAM, a quasi govt agency, and that i would not be responding to many emails from you all that discussed even tangentially, govt things, but was glad to receive them fyi, and glad to remain supportive

Thank you again, David

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 24, 2023, at 09:50, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

David:

I have a lot of emails from you, but none that I would classify as discussing government business. It may also be worth noting that I cannot be Foied since I work for a private company.

If you wanted to check these emails yourself I could find a secure way to get them to you, But I don't think it is really necessary.

I could also just delete them if that would be preferable.

Please let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

Executive Assistan [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: David Morens [b6]>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006688
MORENS_NIH_015580
REL0000479806

Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6] Peter Hotez [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

EXTERNAL SENDER

PS, there is some urgency to my responding, with all the info i can dig up. Sorry to ask a favor but this is an important "ask".

I have told nih that i have NOT done what nih defines as "government business" on my gmail, but rather on several occasions, in emails, gmails, and phone calls, to you and others, have requested that personal emails to me or cc'd to me should be sent to my gmail, and even later, sent to my proton mail.

In my understanding, personal emails that are not business of the US govt, include things like discussing death threats to scientists, investigations of non nih scientists for alleged wrongdoing, discussions about defending scientific integrity, etc

As govt scientists we DO NOT lose first amendment rights, but cannot take public positions on matters of government policy unless we identify ourselves as citizens, ie, not as government employees. Hence we have all been trained to keep personal stuff or emails that reflect opinions which are not USG policies, off of NIH email, and by default onto private mails like gmail

That is what i believe i have done, with the extra caveat that since i was being continually foia'd i also wanted to prevent the personal and private opinions and concerns of my friends, ie, all of you, from showing up in the newspapers, and reduce the chance that your harrassments would be magnified

I hope you will recall and even find emails that are supportive of the fact that i said to all of you that i could not discuss govt business on emails, but please keep me in the loop for my info, and that you should not expect me to respond although i wanted to know what was happening

Stuff like that.

Some of you know that as of yesterday, and thanks to Rich and his daughter and her husband, both attorneys i guess, i now have legal representation. NIH will apparently be happy to throw me under the bus to appease the House Subcommittee, but even at my age i feel i am still highly productive scientifically and have much more to do, including development of covid and influenza vaccines with our molecular pathogenesis lab and with our nih vaccine research center

Thanks for your support, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 23, 2023, at 15:41, David Morens [b6] wrote:
>
> Colleagues, the below letter is related to the nih investigation of me and the definition of "government business" as opposed to personal emails to and from colleagues on gmail that do not do government business such as managing grants, organizing meetings, and thins like that
>
> If you think you might have any emails or even remembrances of such, can you please let me know
>
> For example my emails related to the one which the SSCP has quoting me as referring to the GOF unmentionables
>
> Thank you, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: August 23, 2023 at 15:18:16 EDT
To: David Morens b6
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: August 23, 2023 at 14:54:04 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Cc: "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" b6 "Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" b6 "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Subject: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David,

In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?

> *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.*

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006690
MORENS_NIH_015582
REL0000479806

believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service (ret.)
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 ssistant: Sherri DePollar)
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] < b6 Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < b6 >; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci
b. Francis Collins
c. Lawrence Tabek
d. Hugh Auchincloss
e. Cliff Lane
f. David Morens
g. Ping Chen
h. Ian Watson
i. Andrew Pope
j. Victor Dzau
k. Robert Redfield
l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee
m. David Christian Hassell
n. Jeremy Farrar
o. Robert Garry
p. Michael Farzan
q. Edward Holmes
r. W. Ian Lipkin
s. Andrew Rambaut
t. Peter Daszak
u. Aleksei Chmura
v. Kevin Olival
w. Christian Drosten
x. Ron Fouchier
y. Marion Koopmans
z. Michael Worobey
aa. Jonathan Pekar
bb. Florence Debarre
cc. Angela Rasmussen
dd. Ralph Baric
ee. James LeDuc
ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember
deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006692
MORENS_NIH_015584
REL0000479806

once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than under identifying emails and stuff

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related..

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 wrote:

David,

If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 ssistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6; Green, Christine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006694
MORENS_NIH_015586
REL0000479806

(NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks Jill,

i have a few questions.... see below

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E <b6> wrote:
>
> David,
>
> For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

> You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

> Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those. Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there maybe emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very

few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6 Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 wrote:

Dr. Morens,

Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.

Thanks,

Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006696
MORENS_NIH_015588
REL0000479806

NIAID/NIH/DHHS
Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
Phone: b6
b6
Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006697
MORENS_NIH_015589
REL0000479806

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

From: Kramer, Laura D (HEALTH) b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: earlier small outbreak

5 July
Mirror
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/china-found-coronavirus-strain-seven-22304139

China 'found coronavirus strain seven years ago' after mine workers fell ill and died

An investigation has revealed that the coronavirus trail goes back seven years after men working down a bat and rat-infested mine in China died from a strain and it was sent to Wuhan for testing

Scientists in China discovered a strain of virus close to Covid-19 seven years ago but allegedly kept quiet about it after the outbreak.

An investigation by the Sunday Times [need a subscription to read] has revealed the closest "strain" to coronavirus found so far was discovered in an abandoned mine in 2013 and taken to a virology lab in Wuhan.

It was found in a bat and rat-infested copper mine in south west China.

The strain saw six men come down with a fever, coughs and pneumonia in 2012 after working in the mine, with two of them sadly dying from the disease.

Four of the men were tested and they came up positive for coronavirus antibodies, with the other two unable to be tested having died from the disease.

...-more on virus having escaped lab, which I didn't copy here.

Laura D Kramer

Laura D Kramer, PhD, FASTMH
Director Arbovirus Laboratory
Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH
Professor Biomedical Sciences
School of Public Health
State University of New York at Albany
5668 State Farm Rd
Slingerlands., NY 12159

NIH 57707 - 022428

MORENS_NIH_007982
REL0000479807

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

From: b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: RE:

Dave,

I would certainly and enthusiastically be willing to sign such a comment as will be written. However, Rosenthal or Breman or not, the below needs considerable editing, which I'd be delighted to do if you want. I do realize this is likely a first draft. Taxonomic mentions are atrocious. And more.

By a brief scan, I did not notice any comments about political interference, or will that not be included.

Isn't it a bit dangerous for a close associate of Tony Fauci's to sign onto this? I wouldn't sweat it; I'm like Bobby McGee.

Charlie

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Charles H Calisher b6
Subject:

Charlie, sorry, I sent this out earlier with a wrong email. Here is attempt #2.

See the email letter below sent to you and several other folks in and outside of ASTMH. We are hoping you will agree to sign onto this commentary, attached. AJTMH will be publishing this soon along with an ASTMH "go-with" editorial penned by AJTMH Editor Phil Rosenthal and President Joel Breman. The subject is scientific integrity related to the termination of an NIH coronavirus grant by the administration because of false charges that SARS-CoV-2 is a US-Chinese man-made bioweapon.

Don't laugh: I know an American scientist who engineered a dengue bioweapons attack on Cuba! (I know, I shouldn't joke about stuff like this in print). Anyway, hope you will be willing to sign on. TY, David ..... see letter below.....

NIH 57707 - 022429

MORENS_NIH_007983
REL0000479807

7/11
12-40pm

Subject: RE: Perspective
From: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" b6
Date: 7/10/2020, 12:11 PM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" b6 "taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD" b6
CC: "Alison Jaeb b6 b6

David,
Please send me the final version when available as a Word document by e-mail. It will also need to be entered into the system by Alison, but that is not urgent. Regarding authorship by me, I think that I contributed little editorially (much less than on many other COVID perspectives in the last few months), and since I am not an expert on coronaviruses, etc, I think that I should not be an author.
I have gotten another round of feedback on the accompanying editorial and will put together another (near-final) draft later today.
If all goes well we can hope for approval of both by Monday or soon thereafter.
Thanks,
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6 taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD b6
Subject: Perspective

Have gotten input and edits from all co-authors and should have them all incorporated and send to you by COB today. Have to run now to my PT but will resume editing after that. Joel, youy should be a co-author. Phile, what about you, or is that a conflict with editorial duty? d

MORENS_NIH_007984
REL0000479807

Subject: RE: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Kilmarx, Peter (NIH/FIC) [E]" b6
Date: 7/11/2020, 6:14 PM
To: David Morens b6 "Glass, Roger (NIH/FIC) [E]" b6
CC: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" b6 "Puderbaugh, Ann (NIH/FIC) [E]" b6 "Singh, Mantra (NIH/FIC) [E]" b6

Thanks David.

At CDC everything is cleared to be sure it is scientifically accurate and not inconsistent with CDC policy. I checked with the other IC deputies when I came to NIH five years ago. As you can imagine, there is a wide range of practices at NIH. As Joel knows, we have a pretty quick and generally light review process at FIC. There is very occasionally something that can be reworded. For example, we don't generally recommend that NIH do more research on X, because we are the NIH.

We'll get back to you about this one.

Thanks,
PK

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens b6
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 5:41 PM
To: Glass, Roger (NIH/FIC) [E] b6 Kilmarx, Peter (NIH/FIC) [E]
b6 Puderbaugh, Ann (NIH/FIC) [E b6 Singh, Mantra (NIH/FIC) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

Colleagues, and particularly Roger and Peter,

We don’t have any screening or censorship in NIAID OD, and nothing i write has ever been Screened or approved by Tony, except when we write things together and he gets the last word when we disagree. We have written 40-50 papers together.

I have never seen or heard of him trying to censor anything. A couple weeks ago i was co-author on a paper that essentially said trying to make a universal flu vaccine based on stem antigens won’t work, one of his pet ideas for 15 years, and his comment was oh well, nothing’s easy So i would not ask his opinion or expect him to weigh in.

He knows i am writing something on this subject, but that’s all. When it is published he will read it and probably be delighted that it presents a potential media opportunity for him. If not, I get the flak

Bottom line, I am not worried, i will take any heat, and will be sure he is not dragged into any pushback. As far ad FIC is concerned, i leave that to you and would be happy to discuss

This paper is fully scientifically accurate and defensible in all aspects, and is signed off on by some of the worlds experts, including a very top phylogeneticist who has worked with Tony fir decades, 2 directors of BSL4 labs, one of whom personally trained And evaluated the Wuhan scientists, a Nobel laureate, and various other very senior experts. How much more objective do things get?

My feeling is, sometimes you just gotta stand up and say what’s what.
This virus came from nature, period. I will not accept anyone saying otherwise without proof, which i am absolutely confident doesn’t and never will exist. the reasons are

NIH 57707 - 022431
MORENS_NIH_007985
REL0000479807

7/11
1:43 pm

Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" b6
Date: 7/11/2020, 1:43 PM
To: David Morens b6
CC: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" b6 "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6

Beautiful, David. Two minors and query about the map.

1. Title page Joel G. Breman
2. p21, top incomplete para. "Pandemic b6 par with chemical and nuclear weapons prevention."

3.Fig 2. Map. Looks like the Indian subcontinent is the hottest area in world for emergence of pathogens. Accurate?

Joel
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2020, at 7:29 AM, David Morens b6 wrote:

Lucky you to be hiking on Mt Tam. Gorgeous area. I used to hike all over the world before multiple knee and foot surgeries, ending in a knee replacement and major injuries in other joints, sidelined me. Now i just dream about it. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 10, 2020, at 23:32, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 wrote:

Thanks David. I am going to be tied up Sat AM (hike on Mt Tam, our local mt in Marin County), but will review this later in the day. Almost done!
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6 taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD b6
Subject: Perspectives from Morens et al

Phil and Joel, attached is a new Perspectives draft which incorporates ideas and edits of ALL of the co-authors, plus your own from the last draft.

Rather than try to smooth out and edit further the new text ideas-working-at-cross-puproses, I decided to stop editing and word-smithing so as to just get it in. The rest we can do later, including the institutional affiliations of all coauthors and those sorts of things.

I must say, despite the confusion of many cooks stirring the broth, some new and good ideas have been added by coauthors. David

NIH 57707 - 022432
MORENS_NIH_007986
REL0000479807

7/12
10/3 a

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

abstract for Perspective ms. dmm

On 7/11/2020 4:51 PM, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) wrote:
David, Jeffrey, and Joel,
I have re-read the revised MS. It is great! I have made a number of very minor edits. In some cases there were minor glitches, probably due to group authorship. All very easily fixable.
The bigger problem is that we missed until now the fact that Perspective articles need abstracts. These can be up to 250 words, but this one can be much shorter; whatever seems best to introduce your article to readers (a snappy abstract will help to get readers to click the full paper).
I don't think that I need to see this MS again, except please send me a draft of the abstract and I will review it. Almost done...
Thanks,
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:44 AM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

Beautiful, David. Two minors and query about the map.

1. Title page Joel G. Breman
2. p21, top incomplete para. "Pandemic b6 par with chemical and nuclear weapons prevention."

3.Fig 2. Map. Looks like the Indian subcontinent is the hottest area in world for emergence of pathogens. Accurate?

Joel
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2020, at 7:29 AM, David Morens b6 wrote:

Lucky you to be hiking on Mt Tam. Gorgeous area. I used to hike all over the world before multiple knee and foot surgeries, ending in a knee replacement and major injuries in other joints, sidelined me. Now i just dream about it. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 10, 2020, at 23:32, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 wrote:

Thanks David. I am going to be tied up Sat AM (hike on Mt Tam, our local mt in Marin County), but will review this later in the day. Almost done!
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6 taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD b6
Subject: Perspectives from Morens et al

Phil and Joel, attached is a new Perspectives draft which incorporates ideas and edits of ALL of the co-authors, plus your own from the last draft.

Rather than try to smooth out and edit further the new text ideas-working-at-cross-puproses, I decided to stop editing and word-smithing so as to just get it in. The rest we can do later, including the institutional affiliations of all coauthors and those sorts of things.

I must say, despite the confusion of many cooks stirring the broth, some new and good ideas have been added by coauthors. David

5/12
4:40pm

Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" b6
Date: 7/12/2020, 4:14 PM
To: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" b6 Karen Goraleski b6 David Morens b6
CC: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 "Siegel, Cathi (Oct 00)" b6

Phil, David, and, Jeff,

Agree with abstract and Phil's tweaks.

Use only my ASTMH affiliation for article as for editorial. No need for FIC, NIH disclaimer for me. The editorial and article will now both have same contact information.

FIC leadership laudatory of paper: different affiliations on editorial and article could confuse readers.

Outstanding job David and Jeff.

Joel

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 12, 2020, at 3:41 PM, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 wrote:
>
> Thanks David. Attached are a few minor edits and a comment at the end requesting a bit more of a direct plea for research in this area. I think that this is your core message, so it is good to make it clearly in the abstract (which is all that many readers may see).
> Thanks,
> Phil
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:03 AM
> To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6
> Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
>
> abstract for Perspective ms. dmm
>
> > On 7/11/2020 4:51 PM, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) wrote:
> >
> > David, Jeffrey, and Joel,
> > I have re-read the revised MS. It is great! I have made a number of very minor edits. In some cases there were minor glitches, probably due to group authorship. All very easily fixable.
> > The bigger problem is that we missed until now the fact that Perspective articles need abstracts. These can be up to 250 words, but this one can be much shorter; whatever seems best to introduce your article to readers (a snappy abstract will help to get readers to click the full paper).

NIH 57707 - 022435
MORENS_NIH_007989
REL0000479807

7/12
8:18 PM

Subject: RE: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" b6
Date: 7/12/2020, 8:18 PM
To: David Morens b6
CC: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" b6 "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID)" b6

Thanks. To make sure that I don't use the wrong version or mess something else up, can you please combine the abstract and text into one Word document and send to Cathi and me? The office will let you know if anything else is needed. Hopefully proofs will be out later this week and the pieces on line within a week or so.
Thanks,
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens b6
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

As far as i am concerned it is ready if you change to s'ly. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 12, 2020, at 20:02, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 wrote:
>
> Looks good, except, I think significant should be significantly (adverb modifying increased rather than adjective modifying funding). Sorry for my obsessiveness. Otherwise, from my point of view this is ready to go. The editorial is also set. Please let us know when you have the final version and send it to Cathi and me. Cathi can officially submit it on our web site. For that she'll need affiliations for all the authors.
> Thanks,
> Phil
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:01 PM
> To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) b6 Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] b6
> Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
>
> Phil, here I added a clause addressing your key comment. david
>
> > On 7/12/2020 3:40 PM, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) wrote:
> > Thanks David. Attached are a few minor edits and a comment at the end requesting a bit more of a direct plea for research in this area. I think that this is your core message, so it is good to make it clearly in the abstract (which is all that many readers may see).
> > Thanks,
> > Phil

Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: David Morens [b6]
Date: 7/13/2020, 6:43 AM
To: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" [b6]
CC: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6] "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]

Phil, yes, i will fo a bit later this am. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 12, 2020, at 20:18, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6] wrote:

Thanks. To make sure that I don't use the wrong version or mess something else up, can you please combine the abstract and text into one Word document and send to Cathi and me? The office will let you know if anything else is needed. Hopefully proofs will be out later this week and the pieces on line within a week or so.
Thanks,
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6]
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6] Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E [b6]
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

As far as i am concerned it is ready if you change to s'ly. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 12, 2020, at 20:02, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6] wrote:

Looks good, except, I think significant should be significantly (adverb modifying increased rather than adjective modifying funding). Sorry for my obsessiveness. Otherwise, from my point of view this is ready to go. The editorial is also set. Please let us know when you have the final version and send it to Cathi and me. Cathi can officially submit it on our web site. For that she'll need affiliations for all the authors.
Thanks,
Phil

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) [b6] Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V [b6]
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E [b6]
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

From: Edward Holmes [b6]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:07 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Peter Daszak; Kessler, Robert [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/4rn5CWLVXkU5kgoMEu66F-B?domain=cnn.it

Ok, got it:

There are/will be 2 Cell papers.

1. The Zhou et al. paper ("Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses") is online at Cell. You can cite via the DOI.

2. The Holmes et al. paper ("The Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Review") has just been accepted at Cell and will be available as a pre-proof version online at Cell next week. It should also have a Cell DOI at that point.

Cheers,

Eddie

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 [b6]
E

On 13 Aug 2021, at 1:56 pm, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

If anybody is confused its me. I have the one in Cell, which will appear next week, the 19th I think. I was referring to the paper with you as first author titled "The Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Review" which is in fact a very thorough and critical review. I would like to include both papers, but I don't find it in PubMed and it isn't clear to me where it may be published. In fact when I search on Google the paper appears and I was able and still can download it. It seems to be both the Zhou et al and Holmes et al papers should be cited if at all possible. But again, as I said, and for obvious reasons, I want to stick to papers in or in press in reputable journals.

If the review is not in press somewhere it needs to be published soon because of the compelling scientific argument it makes, in contrast to the garbage Quay and some of the others have published.

Jerry

From: Edward Holmes [b6]
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]; Kessler, Robert [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/0HEfCYW8NocL1yD8qC0cc7x?domain=cnn.it

Hi Jerry,

Sorry, I may be confused here. What Cell preprint are you taking about? Our Zenodo article has just been accepted at Cell and will be preprinted at Cell next week. That's the Cell preprint I was referring to. Perhaps you were discussing something else?

Cheers,

Eddie

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
E [b6]

On 13 Aug 2021, at 9:42 am, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Thanks Eddie,

Its important information. If we do submit a response to the Lancet we will be limited to 5 references. I don't know if I have to cite the document we are responding to, or our original correspondence, which would allow 1 or 2 additional references. At the moment I have the Cell preprint in there along with another evolutionary biology paper from PLoS Biology with David Robertson as a co-author. I would also like to include the very well done review article currently available on Zenodo, if this is on its way to publication in a legitimate peer reviewed journal – I think it's better not to use

preprint references because anything can be "published" in this manner. But not all of my colleagues on the Lancet correspondence from July 5th feel we should reply to every reactive response we may get. If we do go ahead my draft makes it clear this is not a productive way to advance the science and learn more.

I'm sorry we all have to deal with the diverse agendas of our scientific colleagues that ignore the cogent high quality data in favor of their own pet peeves.

Jerry

From: Edward Holmes <b6 b6
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 7:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 ; Kessler, Robert b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/VCudCROND2uvmM09ri9RH1z?domain=cnn.it

Hi Jerry,

Sorry you are having to deal with this.

Our Cell paper has just formally been accepted. Cell said that the pre-proof of the paper will be online 'next week'. I've asked the editor exactly what day that means. If you can cite the pre-proof that would be advantageous because has been peer-reviewed. I will let you know when I get an exact date.

What would evidence of a natural origin look like? It would be SARS-CoV-2 being most closely related to animal viruses that have not been isolated or cultured in the lab, which is exactly what we have at the moment.

Best wishes,

Eddie

--

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
E b6

On 13 Aug 2021, at 5:29 am, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I just found the in press Cell paper via PubMed, so I have that reference. However, I would be grateful if you have any suggestion for another high quality peer-reviewed paper in a reputable journal that strengthens the case for the evolution of the virus in nature or in particular addressing how it reached humans.

Jerry Keusch

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Edward Holmes <[b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Kessler, Robert [b6] Rich Roberts ([b6]
Subject: RE: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGlQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

Dear Eddie,

I am currently drafting a potential reply to the letter in Lancet that Peter, I and 22 others published in Lancet last month (attached for your convenience). We have been invited to respond to a letter from a group of French scientists stating that "There is no scientifically validated evidence that directly supports a natural origin". While we don't want to engage in an endless series of back and forth arguments in the Lancet we are considering a brief response to focus on the real evidence there is. To that we would cite just one reference, your recent review (the French included 15 references, not including yours, as they clearly submitted before your paper appeared as a preprint. I would obviously like to have a peer-reviewed citation

even if just in press, so I would greatly appreciate it if you could update me on the status of your paper and whether or not there is a new citation for your exceptional review.

Thanks in advance, Jerry Keusch

From: Edward Holmes <b6
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6
b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Kessler, Robert b6
b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGlQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

Yes, I hope that means we can put that particular issue to bed.

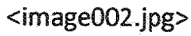
Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 6 Aug 2021, at 7:26 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6 wrote:

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]
b6
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 4:18 PM
Subject: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://cnn.it/3fzBbsp

Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt

By Katie Bo Williams, Zachary Cohen and Natasha Bertrand, CNN
Updated 9:02 AM ET, Thu August 5, 2021

*Washington (CNN)*US intelligence agencies are digging through a treasure trove of genetic data that could be key to uncovering the origins of the coronavirus -- as soon as they can decipher it.

This giant catalog of information contains genetic blueprints drawn from virus samples studied at the lab in Wuhan, China which some officials believe may have been the source of the Covid-19 outbreak, multiple people familiar with the matter tell CNN.

It's unclear exactly how or when US intelligence agencies gained access to the information, but the machines involved in creating and processing this kind of genetic data from viruses are typically connected to external cloud-based servers -- leaving open the possibility they were hacked, sources said.

Still, translating this mountain of raw data into usable information -- which is only one part of the intelligence community's 90-day push to uncover the pandemic's origins -- presents a range of challenges, including harnessing enough computing power to process it all.

To do that, intelligence agencies are relying on supercomputers at the Department of Energy's National Labs, a collection of 17 elite government research institutions.

There's also a manpower issue. Not only do intelligence agencies need government scientists skilled enough to interpret complex genetic sequencing data and who have the proper security clearance, they also need to speak Mandarin, since the information is written in Chinese with a specialized vocabulary.

"Obviously there are scientists who are (security) cleared," one source familiar with the intelligence told CNN. "But Mandarin-speaking ones who are cleared? That's a very small pool. And not just any scientists, but ones who specialize in bio? So you can see how this quickly becomes difficult."

Officials conducting the 90-day review hope this information will help answer the question of how the virus jumped from animals to humans. Unlocking that mystery is essential to ultimately determining whether Covid-19 leaked from the lab or was transmitted to humans from animals in the wild, multiple sources told CNN.

Investigators both inside and outside the government have long sought genetic data from 22,000 virus samples that were being studied at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That data was removed from the internet by Chinese officials in September 2019, and China has since refused to turn over this and other raw data on early coronavirus cases to the World Health Organization and the US.

The question for investigators is whether the WIV or other labs in China possessed virus samples or other contextual information that could help them trace the coronavirus' evolutionary history.

Two scientists who study coronaviruses told CNN they are skeptical that there is any genetic data either in the tranche of 22,000 samples or any other database from the WIV that scientists don't already know about.

"Basically in [a 2020 research paper published in Nature], the WIV talked about all the sequences they had up until a certain point in time -- it's what most scientists virologists believe, that's pretty much what they had," said Dr. Robert Garry, a virologist at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

MORENS_NIH_007998
REL0000479807

A source familiar with the US investigation would neither confirm nor deny that any of the data pertaining to those 22,000 samples is among what US intelligence agencies are currently analyzing.

No 'smoking gun'

Sources familiar with the effort say filling in that missing genetic link won't be enough to definitively prove whether the virus originated in the lab at Wuhan or first emerged naturally. Officials will still need to piece together other contextual clues to determine the true origins of the pandemic.

But it is a critical puzzle piece that the Biden administration has been prioritizing.

"The most prized technical data in this context are genetic sequences, database entries and contextual information about the provenance of the samples and the time and context in which they were acquired -- information people would use to place them in a narrative of the origins of SARS, Covid," one source familiar with the investigation told CNN.

For now, senior intelligence officials still say that they are genuinely split between the two prevailing theories on the pandemic's origins, or some combination of both scenarios. CNN reported last month that senior Biden administration officials overseeing the 90-day review now believe the theory that the virus accidentally escaped from a lab in Wuhan is at least as credible as the possibility that it emerged naturally in the wild -- a dramatic shift from a year ago, when Democrats publicly downplayed the so-called lab leak theory.

Multiple sources told CNN that absent an unexpected windfall of new information, officials don't expect to uncover a "smoking gun" -- like intercepted communications, for example -- that would offer definitive proof for either theory. The Biden administration's 90-day push is predicated on the expectation that science, not intelligence will be the key.

Intelligence officials are tasked with addressing several "scientific knowledge gaps" about the virus' evolution, according to the collection guidance governing the 90-day push, distributed to more than a dozen agencies on June 11 by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and obtained by CNN.

The memo instructs the intelligence community to "expand its collection" and consider data already in its

NIH 57707 - 022445

MORENS_NIH_007999
REL0000479807

possession to identify both the initial host of the coronavirus and any species that it may have passed through as it adapted to humans -- or to find as "any progenitor virus and/or virus that could serve as backbone for genetic engineering purposes."

But former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe told CNN that the US intelligence community already had sufficient collection on the topic of Covid origins.

"Obviously the more, the better. But we've had extraordinary insight into this topic for many months, much more than has been declassified. Pretending we didn't is political theater and a classic example of a politician trying to buy time by using the IC as a scapegoat," he told CNN in a statement.

Digging into the science

That's where the genomic data from the Wuhan lab could come in.

The genetic code of a given virus is the signature that allows scientists to tell the difference between the Delta and Beta variants of the coronavirus, for example. It can also offer clues as to how the virus has adapted or mutated over time, including whether it shows signs of human manipulation -- a kind of genetic history.

Many scientists continue to believe that the most likely scenario is that the virus jumped from animals to humans naturally. But despite testing thousands of animals, researchers still haven't identified the intermediate host through which the virus passed as it adapted to humans.

But some researchers, intelligence officials and Republican lawmakers believe that researchers at the WIV might have genetically altered a virus in the lab, using a controversial kind of research known as "gain of function" that could have infected researchers who then spread it in their community.

It's also plausible that the initial infection took place naturally outside of the lab, perhaps while a scientist was collecting a sample from an animal in the wild, and that scientist then spread the virus unknowingly when he returned to the lab with the samples, multiple sources familiar with the intelligence explained.

"If it was the latter, it was likely brought into a lab to study because someone got sick ... which means there

NIH 57707 - 022446

MORENS_NIH_008000
REL0000479807

were an unknowable number of other people who were already sick," the source familiar with the probe said. Understanding exactly which viruses researchers at the WIV were working on could provide important evidence for any one of these theories. It's one of the reasons that investigators on Capitol Hill and elsewhere have been keenly focused on the database that was taken offline in 2019.

But it might not prove anything definitively, sources familiar with the intelligence say. Even if scientists in the intelligence community are able to use the data from the lab to stitch together a complete genetic history that shows how the virus mutated, they might not have enough information about how it was handled by the Chinese lab to determine with a high level of confidence that it leaked.

"Despite having that complete history of variants, [officials might] lack the contextual information to make sense of it in a narrative way," the source familiar with the investigation explained.
"Even a complete sequence history is difficult to obtain. And doesn't really tell us anything about the origins of the pandemic itself without the context," this person added.

Some Republicans on Capitol Hill have jumped into the uncertainty with their own report claiming that "the preponderance of evidence suggests" the coronavirus was "accidentally" released from a lab in Wuhan in 2019 -- an assertion that goes far beyond the intelligence community's current view of the matter.

90 days -- and then what?

It's possible that at the end of Biden's 90-day push, the intelligence community won't have reached what's known as a "high-confidence" assessment as to the pandemic's origins. Administration officials have previously suggested to CNN that it's possible a second review could be ordered at the end of the 90 days.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers on the Senate Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committees earlier this week sent a letter urging the administration to continue to prioritize the hunt until such a judgment can be made in order to prevent future pandemics.

But the lawmakers also zeroed in on a related focus for intelligence officials probing the pandemic's origins: China's "efforts to conceal the severity and scope of the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic."

NIH 57707 - 022447

MORENS_NIH_008001
REL0000479807

"We also believe that the investigation should address PRC efforts to prevent international inquiries into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, and other actions PRC authorities have taken to obscure the nature of the virus and its transmission," the lawmakers said.

Republican lawmakers in the House, meanwhile, have latched onto the theory that the virus escaped from a lab. GOP lawmakers in a report released Monday by Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas have claimed that "the preponderance of evidence suggests" the coronavirus was "accidentally" released from a lab in Wuhan in 2019.

Intelligence officials say it's still far too soon to say.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

›m: Peter Daszak <[redacted] b6
ɔent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Keusch, Jerry; Robert Kessler; Roberts, Rich; Hotez, Peter Jay
Subject: Under Embargo - Commentary in Nature Wednesday morning
Attachments: Koopmans et al. Comment Covid Origins Nature 2021.pdf

Importance: High

I'm attaching a commentary that will come out on Wednesday in Nature. It was originally written as a response to the WHO DG deciding to bail on the WHO team and call for a new structure and a focus on the lab leak/audit. We've watered it down so it's not too political, and focuses on the fact that this has stalled the process. The key messages from our point of view are that:

1. the search for the origins is important and needs to continue
2. since our report, we feel that most attention has gone to debates regarding likelihood of a lab leak, at the cost of progress in other areas
3. we should all be concerned that time passing - in part owing to these discussions – and this could close the window of opportunity for some critical studies
4. there are critical issues to deal with that are laid out in the report as recommendations for Phase 2: tracking back from the market, following new leads from the recent paper on mammals in the market, representative wild animal and farmed wild animal surveys, and comparative serosurveys in all regions where there has been evidence of early circulation.
5. the lab audit - as added- will need to be developed to define questions. The smallpox audit example cited by WHO in their press addresses biosafety and biosecurity for that pathogen, but would not necessarily help identify evidence for a lab leak. Developing those studies, and agreeing them with China may take of lot of time and that these should not lead to further delays for the other recommended studies

I'm still trying to stay out of publicity as much as possible, so will be avoiding reporters on this one.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
?0 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
.lew York, NY 10018-6507
USA

NIH 57707 - 022449

MORENS_NIH_008003
REL0000479807

Tel.: +1-[b6] [b6] [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:35 PM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' [b6] Jeusch, Jerry [b6]
Robert Kessler [b6] 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]
Subject: Francis Collins on CNBC today

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.

NIH 57707 - 022450
MORENS_NIH_008004
REL0000479807

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.

ollins 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.

NIH 57707 - 022451

MORENS_NIH_008005
REL0000479807

"We don't know what they're going to come up with either, but we're intensely interested," Collins said.

Collins also weighed in on the debate over whether or not the U.S. funded so-called gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab, a debate that Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and medical advisor to the president, Dr. Anthony Fauci, have engaged in time and time again. Gain-of-function research is when scientists take a pathogen and make it more contagious, deadly or both to study how to combat it.

"The kind of gain-of-function research that's under very careful scrutiny is when you take a pathogen for humans, and you do something with it that would enhance its virulence or its transmissibility," Collins said. "They were not studying a pathogen that was a pathogen for humans, these are bat viruses."

Some of the research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology that was funded, in part, by the NIH through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance studied how bat viruses could infect humans.

"So by the strict definition, and this was look at exquisitely carefully by all the reviewers of that research in anticipation that this might come up, was that this did not meet the official description of what's called gain-of-function research that requires oversight," Collins said. "I know this has gotten lots of attention, but I think it's way out of place."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Jerry (b6

NIH 57707 - 022452

MORENS_NIH_008006
REL0000479807

b6; Kessler, Robert b6
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

b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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.

NIH 57707 - 022454

MORENS_NIH_008008
REL0000479807

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.

NIH 57707 - 022455

MORENS_NIH_008009
REL0000479807

But the Chinese government would not feel comfortable with this degree of transparency. The Communist Party leadership is used to conducting investigations and making decisions behind closed doors, and sees the call for openness as a political threat.

That is not atypical in China's crisis management," Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told VICE World News. "The U.S. could push for more transparency, but they fail to recognize that the lack of transparency itself is part of the authoritarian governance in the country."

This mindset could hurt China's reputation—the pandemic is not a small crisis but one that has upended almost everyone's life. "Even if the virus is caused by a natural spillover event," Huang said, "when you don't show transparency, when you are perceived as unwilling to share the data, people naturally will think you have something to hide."

The Chinese government has remained intransigent to the mounting calls for more transparency.

At the press conference last month, Chinese officials said they were "shocked" to hear about WHO's proposal for fresh audits into Chinese labs, adding the suggestion indicated "disrespect for common sense and an arrogant attitude toward science."

The same month, state media quoted a Facebook post by a self-claimed Swiss biologist named Wilson Edwards as saying that researchers faced intimidation from the U.S. for supporting the WHO-China origin-tracing study. The Swiss embassy said no such person exists.

It's unclear whether the U.S. intelligence probe, which was condemned by Chinese state media as a "political witch-hunt," would yield anything more than circumstantial evidence.

By the time a preliminary report was drafted, the intelligence community was still divided over the lab leak theory and the natural origin one, CNN reported this month. The outlet cited a source as saying that the draft contained "nothing too earth shattering."

In September 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology shut off public access to its database, which holds thousands of genetic sequences of bat coronaviruses it studied.

Shi Zhengli, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the institute, said the online database was shut down after cyberattacks—believe it or not, that's the answer to ex-CDC director Robert Redfield's first question. But almost two years later, the database remains offline. It's no wonder that people are asking questions.

Follow Alan Wong and Viola Zhou on Twitter.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security,

Date:	Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:03:45 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Wpost: A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look
From:	Peter Daszak <b6>
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6 Rich Roberts b6
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; Text for bioengineered or lab release hypothesis.docx

This is a widely debunked, yet of course titillating red herring.

The Wuhan CDC has been the focus of a conspiracy dreamed up on Twitter since the beginning of the outbreak when someone searched Wuhan CDC on Google maps and got two locations for it and accused it of being a cover up from China. Then this video surfaced, and a staff member saying they were bitten by bats and "urinated on". Also accusations of 500 bats in a bat cage in the CDC.

We looked into the Wuhan CDC lab while on the WHO team. Some of the group visited the lab (I didn't) and noticed that the electrical supply system had an installation date of Dec 2019. When asked, it turns out the lab moved from one location to close by the Huanan market in early December. While the conspiracists would love that it's closer to the market, it actually reduced the risk of infection – labs that are moving spend weeks closing down work and packing up, so they would have been out of action in the last 3 months of 2019.

While in Wuhan, I spent a few hours going through every paper published by Wuhan CDC and also watched the video that was circulating widely. I summed up our general conclusions in a doc (attached) that was meant as a preamble to a section on the lab leak hypothesis, but ultimately wasn't used. Basically, the only evidence of specific bat virus sampling was prior to 2013 (their last paper published was in 2013). They are primarily an insect virus genomics lab, and were working on ectoparasites, and that's what's in the video (link in attached doc). The video has them wearing full PPE. I'm sure that some groups didn't use this level of PPE in the past, but that's also common with wildlife biologists around the world, including in the USA. The rumors about a bat colony are not borne out by evidence, and considering they weren't doing anything like the sophisticated work at WIV or the volume of sampling at WIV, it seemed massively unlikely that this lab had anything to do with the outbreak.

I spoke with Eddie Holmes about this also – he works with them and published on insect viruses. He was visiting Wuhan CDC in 2014 when he was shown the Huanan market as a likely high risk animal virus spillover site. He confirmed that this lab was basically an insect parasite/microbe metagenomics lab that didn't do work on bat viruses.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; Rich Robert <b6>
Subject: FW: Wpost: A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:50 AM
Subject: Wpost: A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look

A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory

gets another look

By
Eva Dou
and
Lily Kuo

June 3, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. EDT

In the video, the researchers scale the cavern wall, their headlamps ghostly blue.

"If our skin is exposed, it can easily come in contact with bat excrement and contaminated matter, which means this is quite risky," says Tian Junhua, one of the bat hunters.

"We have to live for several days in the cave . . ." he continues, as the soundtrack amps up the drama. "There's no cellphone signal, no supplies. It's truly scary."

The video was released by national science authorities and Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Dec. 10, 2019, and circulated on social media. It's a high-quality production, designed to promote China's world-leading viral research. Aired around the time Wuhan residents began turning up at hospitals with mysterious respiratory ailments, it also offers a rare glimpse of field conditions on the eve of the pandemic.

Tian and his team from the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention are filmed catching horseshoe and pipistrelle bats and collecting samples of guano, in search of new bat-borne diseases and the basis of new vaccines. Tian talks about the need for caution. "It is while discovering new viruses that we are most at risk of infection," he says, though he is shown handling sample vials without wearing full protective gear.

The video is perhaps even more notable for what it doesn't reveal. Nothing is known outside China about the science gleaned from that expedition by the Wuhan CDC — the same agency that oversaw China's early pandemic response. The team has not disclosed what viruses, if any, it found in the cave, or even when the mission took place. According to a World Health Organization report released in March, the Wuhan CDC denied any storage or laboratory activities involving bat viruses before the coronavirus outbreak — a stance hard to reconcile with Tian's boasts in the video about having visited dozens of bat caves and studied 300 types of virus vectors.

Tian has not spoken publicly for more than a year.

WHO Wuhan report leaves question of coronavirus origins unresolved

The silencing of scientists, the blanket denials, the careful guarding of raw data and biological samples — these elements have been emblematic of the approach by Chinese authorities at every stage of the coronavirus outbreak. And they continue to obstruct the world's ability to get answers.

There is no direct evidence linking Tian's team, or a rival group of bat-disease specialists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, to the coronavirus outbreak. Nor is there more than circumstantial evidence to support any theory of the pandemic's origin. Many scientists say the most likely path is that the virus spread in nature and jumped from animals to humans. But that belief is largely based on how other coronaviruses have originated, not what is known about this case.

The lack of clarity is not in itself alarming at this point in an investigation of virus origins — in the case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), scientists were fairly quick to identify civet cats as the intermediate host, though it took years to find the bat population that harbored the building blocks of the virus. But the WHO chief, the Biden administration, other governments and scientists around the world have rebuked China for not making this investigation any easier.

Last week, President Biden directed U.S. intelligence agencies to redouble efforts to determine the pandemic's origin, including whether it could have emerged "from a laboratory accident."

Coronavirus 'lab leak' theory jumps from mocked to maybe as Biden orders intelligence review

China's Foreign Ministry protested, with a spokesman saying Monday that Beijing supported scientific inquiry on the question but not "an intelligence-led investigation stoking confrontation."

Chinese authorities weren't much more receptive of the international team commissioned by the WHO. Negotiations over the arrangements delayed the team from getting to Wuhan until more than a year after doctors first raised concerns there. Once on the ground, the international experts were given limited access. They visited the market linked to early coronavirus cases — but it had been shut for a year and its contents long ago removed. Their visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology lasted three hours. In general, they had to satisfy themselves with data that was in large part collected by Chinese scientists before the trip.

The result was a report that didn't significantly advance the world's understanding of how the pandemic came about.

The report lent credence to China's preferred theory that the virus could have come from overseas, possibly via frozen food imports — though Beijing has presented little support for that. On the question of a possible lab leak, the report concluded that pathway was "extremely unlikely."

Analysts have accused China of inappropriately influencing the team's conclusions.

WHO chief, U.S. and other world leaders criticize China for limiting access of team researching coronavirus origins

For Beijing, there are huge political risks if it loses control of the narrative, said Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"They want to portray China as successful at containing the spread, at being so cooperative and sharing information," he said.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012579
MORENS_NIH_023967
REL0000479815

"This lab-escape theory, which indicates that China was the cause of the problem, makes the official narrative unreliable."

Obstruction heightens interest

The lack of transparency has fanned both speculative and legitimate questions. Within the realm of U.S. politics, entertaining the lab-leak theory is less toxic now for those on the left than when it was embraced by the Trump administration as another way to bash China. And in the world of science, some of the early arguments against a lab leak have been countered by respected researchers, launching a genuine debate.

"We can't even begin to talk about a consensus other than a consensus that we don't know," said David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist. "We have nothing like the amount of data we need."

Relman is one of 18 scientists who wrote an open letter last month urging serious consideration of the possibility that the pandemic originated with a lab accident.

"Any lab that handles a significant number of samples from bats or other potential coronavirus host species, or performs engineering on coronaviruses," should be considered, he said in an interview this week with The Washington Post.

Wuhan's two rival teams of exotic bat disease specialists are now under renewed scrutiny. Tian's team at the Wuhan CDC and Shi Zhengli's at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) have both drawn criticism for a willingness to compromise safety, as they raced to make discoveries.

The Wuhan CDC and WIV did not reply to requests for comment, nor did Tian or Shi. An unnamed staffer who answered the phone Tuesday at the Wuhan CDC said the center did not accept interviews and directed questions to the National Health Commission. The NHC did not reply to a request for comment.

China's Foreign Ministry and the Chinese Embassy in Washington declined to answer questions for this article.

Biden has ordered U.S. intelligence agencies to report back in 90 days.

The Bat Woman and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

Dubbed China's "Bat Woman," Shi has been the country's star coronavirus researcher, identifying multiple new SARS-like viruses over the years and giving prescient warnings about the risk of a new pandemic. Her lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology also discovered and studied the closest-known cousin to the coronavirus, though scientists note it would require decades of natural evolution to bridge the two.

The WHO report says Shi told the visiting team that all field work is done with full protective equipment — which experts say would include N95 masks, Tyvek bodysuits, goggles and gloves. But in a June 2018 lecture, Shi said workers don't do that in practice.

"In most cases, we'd wear simpler protection, and it's okay," she said on a Chinese TED Talks-like program called Yixi. She said that's because most bat-borne diseases cannot infect humans directly, only through an intermediary animal.

To illustrate, she showed slides of her team spreading out nets in a cave to catch bats and sorting samples afterward. Some wear thin surgical masks and rubber gloves as they work, while others are unmasked with bare hands.

"Under what situation would we increase our protection? For instance, when there are too many bats in the cave, and lots of dust even as you're entering," she said.

Shi kept a low profile at the pandemic's onset, with her occasional interventions reflecting the pressures on her team. On Feb. 2, 2020, she posted to friends on WeChat that she "swore on her life" her lab was not involved in the outbreak. Three months later, she followed up with a post denying rumors she had defected to the West with intelligence files, as reported in the state-run Global Times.

As questions about the WIV intensified, Shi wrote a lengthy statement to Science magazine in July. She wrote that it was impossible for the coronavirus to have come from the WIV, as her team had not come across this strain in its research, and all staffers had tested negative for coronavirus antibodies. Shi said her team had "never been in contact with or studied this virus, nor [knew] of its existence" before the pandemic.

But she also acknowledged the lab had not done genome sequencing of all its samples, because of financial and personnel constraints. She declined to say how many samples remained unsequenced.

Suspicions about the lab were elevated in January, after the U.S. State Department said it had "reason to believe" that several WIV researchers showed symptoms similar to those of covid-19 in the fall of 2019. The Wall Street Journal reported last month, citing an intelligence report, that three WIV researchers were sick enough to go to a hospital.

WIV's lab director, Yuan Zhiming, called it a "complete lie" in state media.

The bat adventurer and the Wuhan CDC

The Wuhan CDC lab has received less attention.

The WHO team's account of its visit to the facility doesn't include notes on research safety. The report mentions that the lab moved on Dec. 2, 2019, to a location close to the Huanan market linked to early coronavirus cases. "Such moves can be disruptive for the operations of any laboratory," the team writes, adding that no such disruptions had been reported by the lab.

Tian is by title an associate chief technician in the Wuhan CDC's pest-control department, but he has a reputation as a swaggering adventurer in his work with bats and insects.

"He will often go to places other people can't find to look for the samples he needs," a colleague, Liu Jing, said on local TV in January 2020. "He can say quite confidently that he can capture things other people can't."

Using nets and traps, Tian's team caught 155 bats in Hubei, his home province, and hundreds more in other regions for a 2013 study. He was part of a team that discovered 1,445 new RNA viruses in invertebrate animals, published in the elite journal Nature

in 2016.
The Wuhan CDC organized an internal meeting titled "Learning from the Achievements of Tian Junhua."
"No one remembers how many mountains he climbed, how many rivers he forged, how many bat caves he explored, how many cowpens and pigsties he crouched in, how many trash heaps he dug through," the CDC's account of the event said. "He enjoys it."
He has also admitted the occasional safety mishap.
In 2017, Tian told the state-run Wuhan Evening News he once forgot personal protective equipment and was splattered with bat urine, leading him to quarantine at home for two weeks. On multiple occasions, bat blood squirted onto his skin while he was trying to grasp the animals with a clamp, he told the paper.
On Feb. 3, 2020, Tian's team landed in the pages of Nature again, with an early clinical account of a coronavirus patient in Wuhan. Their paper pointed to bats as a possible host.
But as the coronavirus spread, Tian went quiet. The state-run newspaper Health Times cited an anonymous source in March 2020 saying Tian was not infected with coronavirus, and that he was in poor spirits because of speculation over whether he was patient zero.
The Health Times said it reached Tian by phone and he declined to answer questions — an unusual note of tension in a state media profile. Tian has not spoken publicly since.
It highlights a challenge facing independent probes: Many of those in Wuhan who may hold key information are quiet, whether under official pressure or by personal choice.
Tian has continued his research while staying out of the public eye. A paper he co-authored in August discussed genetic diversity in ticks. One in November focused on antibiotic-resistant genes in fish.
He has not said or published anything more about bats.
Pei Lin Wu and Alicia Chen contributed to this report.
WHO report leaves unsettled 'lab-leak' theory on origins of covid pandemic
WHO chief, U.S. and other world leaders criticize China for limiting access of team researching coronavirus origins
Early missteps and state secrecy in China probably allowed the coronavirus to spread farther and faster
Updated May 19, 2021

Coronavirus: What you need to read

Coronavirus maps: Cases and deaths in the U.S. | Cases and deaths worldwide
Vaccines: Younger teens | Tracker by state | Guidance for vaccinated people | How long does immunity last? | County-level vaccine data
What you need to know: Variants | Symptoms guide | Masks FAQ | Your life at home | Personal finance guide | Follow all of our coverage and sign up for our free newsletter
Got a pandemic question? We answer one every day in our coronavirus newsletter

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sat, 20 Mar 2021 12:34:16 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Mar 2021 12:30:30 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

I really appreciate this Rich and although it's disheartening to see the deflection, I think it's important that the NIH Director doesn't only receive the Republican attacks and realizes there are others out there that still care about political interference with the process of freely engaging in funded scientific research.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 11:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; David Morens < b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce

Peter:

Thanks for sharing this. It is very discouraging to see these kinds of attacks continuing and very disturbing that Dave Relman is involved.

I am attaching an email I received on Wednesday from Francis in response to a letter I had sent to him (at the bottom of the thread). While at least he responded to this one it was merely a deflection.

As for another investigation, hopefully you will be able to convince them that it would be a huge waste of time and money. Unless the Chinese undergo a complete about turn, they are not going to be cooperative in any additional way over and above their response to the WHO investigation.

If you see any additional way in which I might help please do let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

This letter from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce was filed yesterday. I don't know what normally happens with this, but I'm assuming NIH will respond and I won't have to do anything. Note that Dr. Relman is cited and center, and I believe he's agitating to head up an inquiry from the NASEM. I've thought this for a long time after he approached me a couple of times a year ago to inquire about my work in China.

This letter is part of a barrage of daily attacks at this point. Today, the US Right to Know filed a FoIA at Erasmus Univ Netherlands where Marion Koopmans (also on the WHO mission) works, for emails to me and the WHO people, adding to multiple broadsheet articles over the past week from WSJ and less sophisticated right wing papers. I don't know if they can FoIA a foreign Univ, but I've now got to spend hours of my time with their lawyers and ours to find out.

On the good side, I was asked to brief staffers at the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which I'm assuming will be a positive experience, and I'm reaching out to the State Dept and NSC to offer briefings on WHO findings ahead of the report. Additionally, 60 minutes is doing a piece on the report and interviewed me, but I suspect they're going to dwell on the lab release hypothesis.

Meanwhile, I'm drafting a response to the 10 conditions from Collins & Lauer and will have a draft within a few days for your comments if that's ok. Given Biden's theatrical show at the China summit today, I don't hold up much hope that this sort of aggression is going to dissipate quickly…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:28:06 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:24:07 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

I should add that the former Lancet Taskforce (Jerry and I are on it) have a "perspectives" paper to submit Monday for PNAS that reviews all the theories on origins and proposes One Health strategies to deal with future pandemic threats, so we don't need to go too far into the arguments for a natural origin – it will be dealt with in detail in that paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003957
MORENS_NIH_010906
REL0000479817

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:
>
> Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!
>
> Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003958
MORENS_NIH_010907
REL0000479817

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [b6 >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6 >
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6 >; 'David Morens' [b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' <
b6 ; 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003959
MORENS_NIH_010908
REL0000479817

bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.

- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.

- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that " *EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.

- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.

- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.

- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from

SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.

- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis*." ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration *was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses* and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMED and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.***

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003961
MORENS_NIH_010910
REL0000479817

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 'David Morens' b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003962
MORENS_NIH_010911
REL0000479817

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6;
Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003964
MORENS_NIH_010913
REL0000479817

no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio < [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003965
MORENS_NIH_010914
REL0000479817

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003966
MORENS_NIH_010915
REL0000479817

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich <b6>; David Morens b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <
b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003967
MORENS_NIH_010916
REL0000479817

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

  "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

  "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003969
MORENS_NIH_010918
REL0000479817

have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6; David Morens b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003970
MORENS_NIH_010919
REL0000479817

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003971
MORENS_NIH_010920
REL0000479817

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs

called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003973
MORENS_NIH_010922
REL0000479817

coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

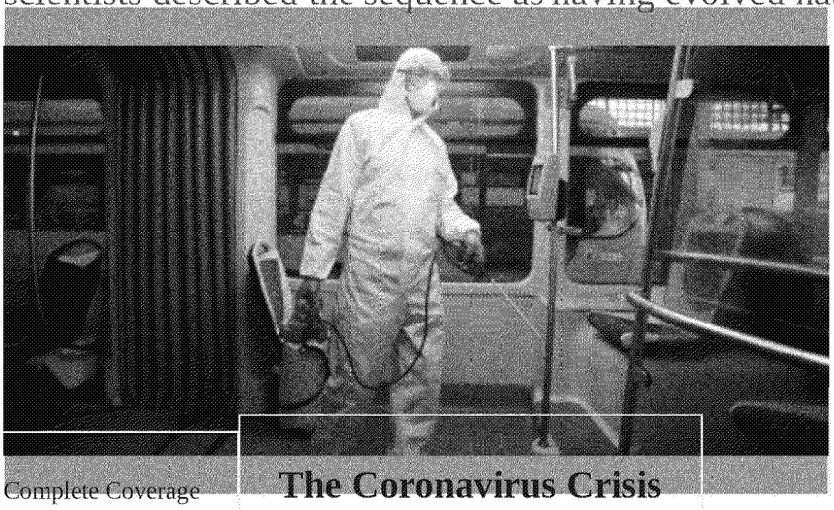
Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003974
MORENS_NIH_010923
REL0000479817

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



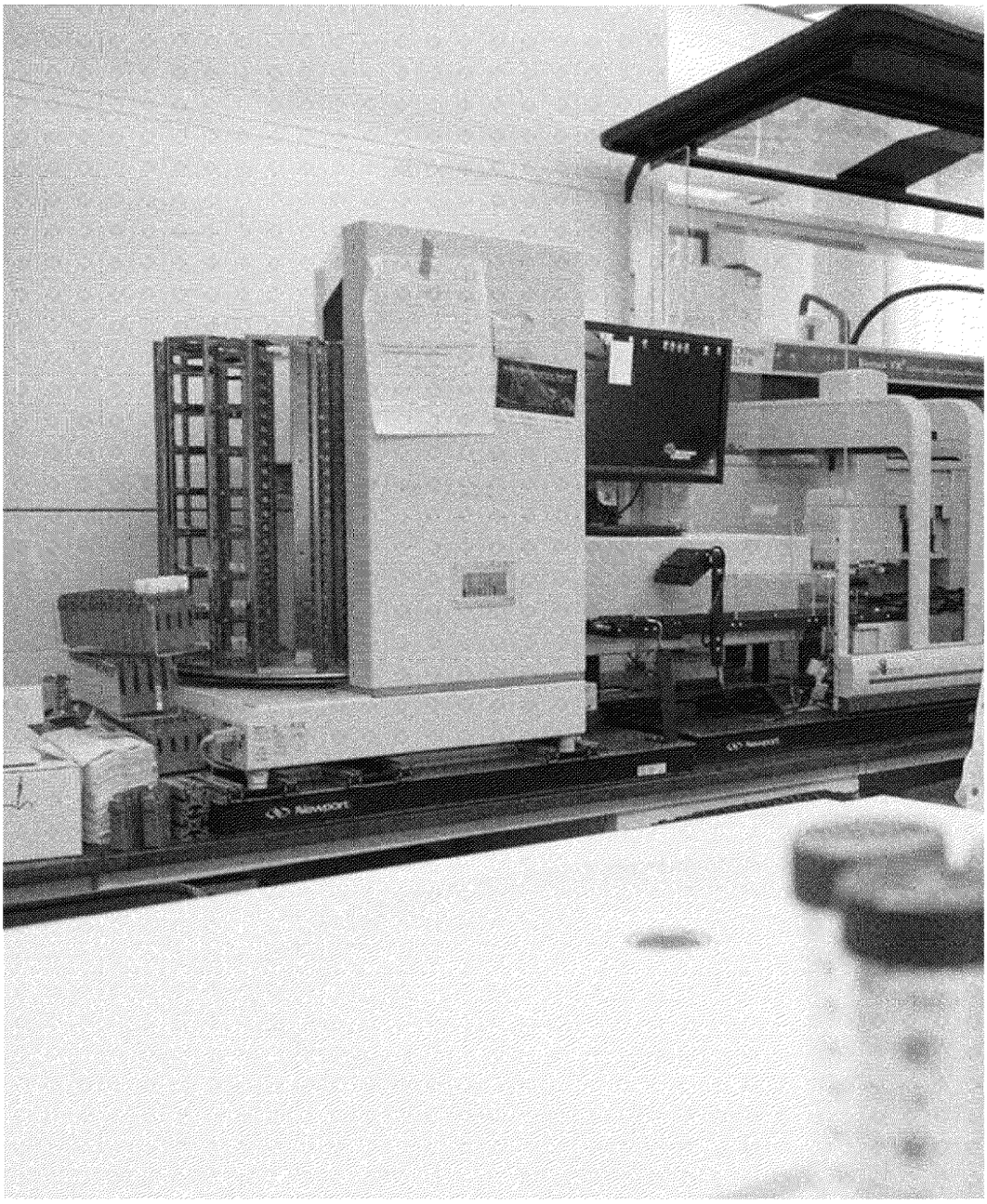
Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003975
MORENS_NIH_010924
REL0000479817

another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003976
MORENS_NIH_010925
REL0000479817

Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting

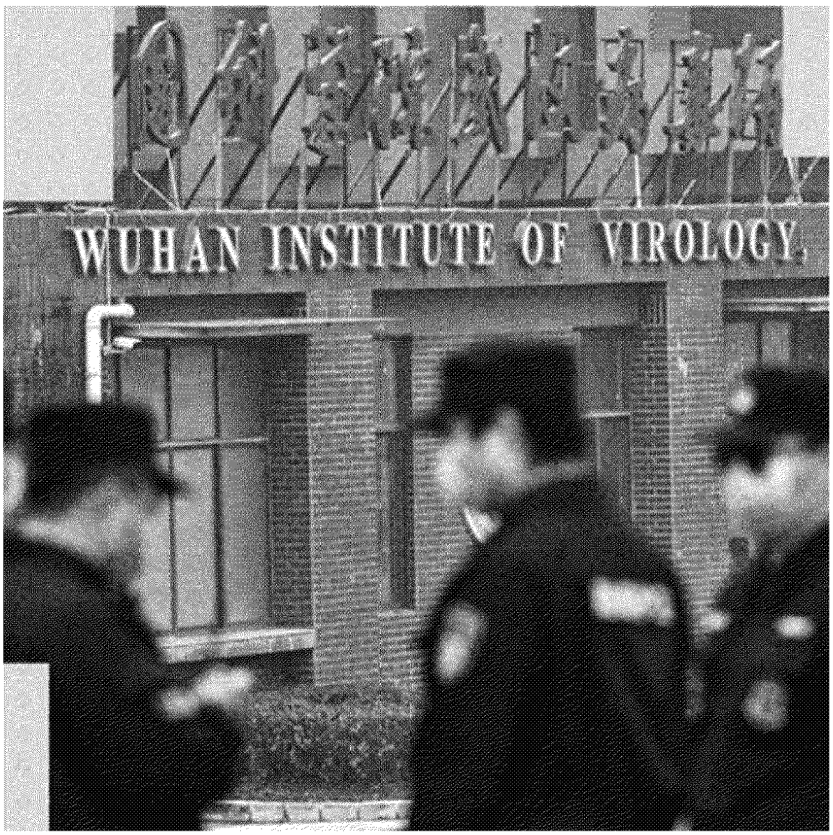
MORENS_SUBPOENA_003977
MORENS_NIH_010926
REL0000479817

verrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_003978
MORENS_NIH_010927
REL0000479817

Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003979
MORENS_NIH_010928
REL0000479817



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003980
MORENS_NIH_010929
REL0000479817

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003981
MORENS_NIH_010930
REL0000479817

“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003982
MORENS_NIH_010931
REL0000479817

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

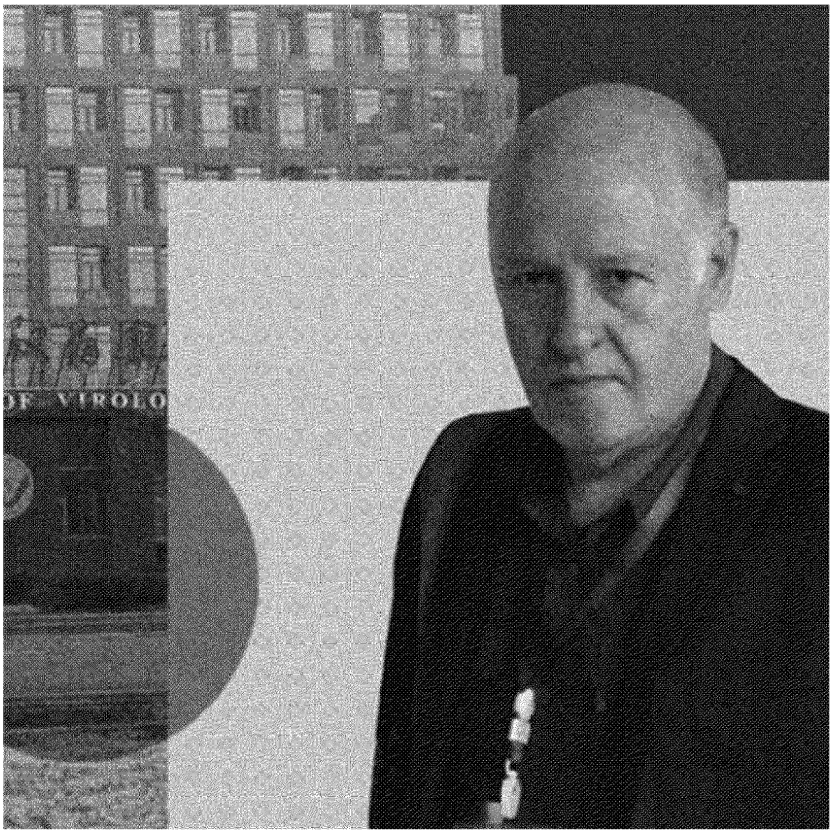
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003984
MORENS_NIH_010933
REL0000479817

Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003985
MORENS_NIH_010934
REL0000479817

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6>; Aleksei Chmura b6>; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003986
MORENS_NIH_010935
REL0000479817

President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering,
Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003987
MORENS_NIH_010936
REL0000479817

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens [b6] wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger.
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:
>
> This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.
>
> Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.
>
> Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.
>
> It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….
>
> PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD
Subject: RE: FW: Query from Ne
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disa I know that Dr. Bloom is making th reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducte packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003989
MORENS_NIH_010938
REL0000479817

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; peter hotez b6 Roberts, Rich <
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** b6
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003990
MORENS_NIH_010939
REL0000479817

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

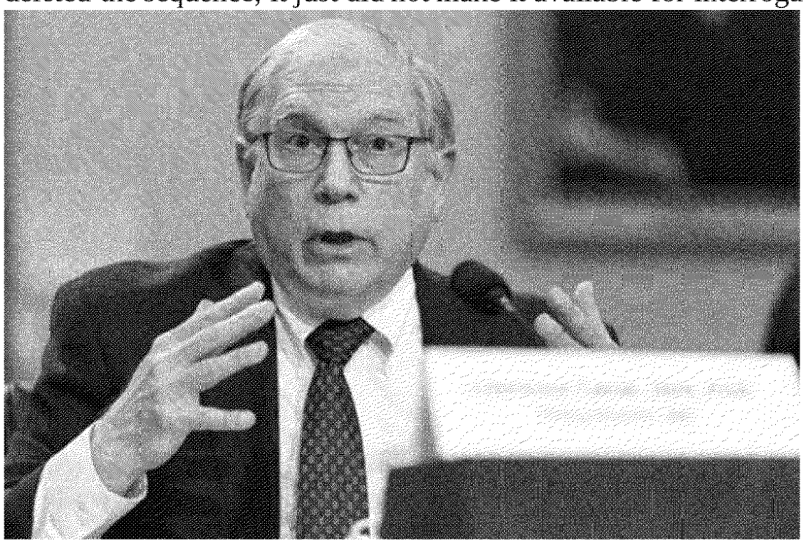
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003991
MORENS_NIH_010940
REL0000479817

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

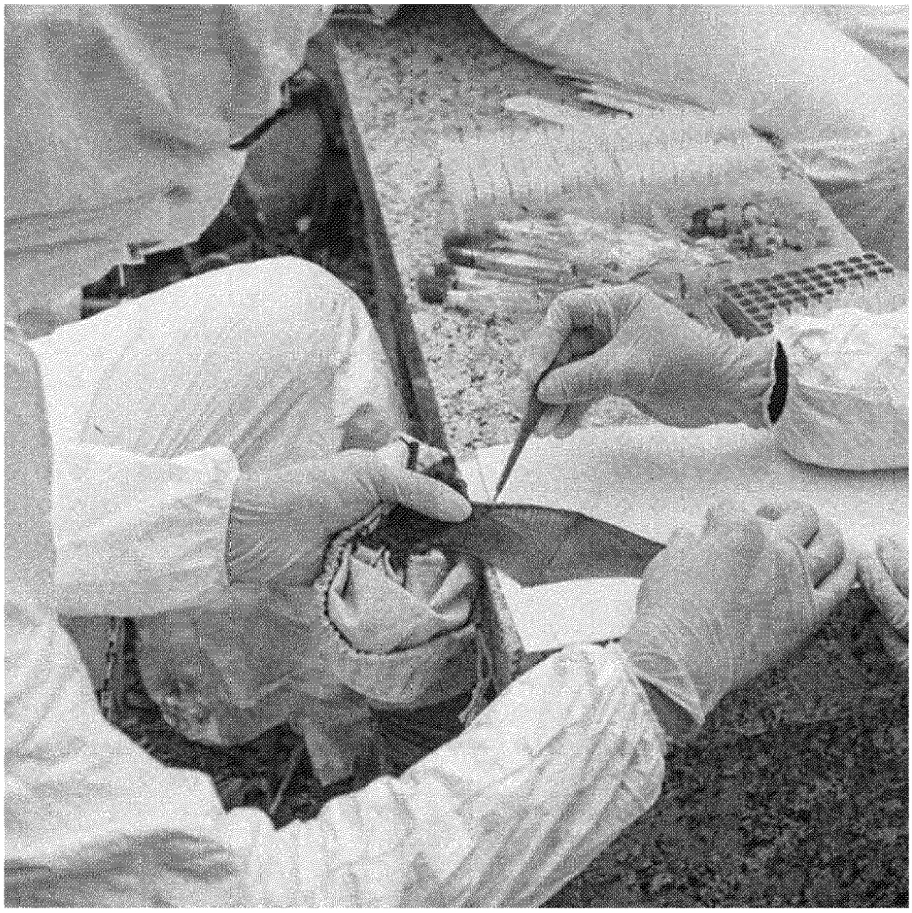
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.
Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you

received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Wed, 27 Oct 2021 3:17:52 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 27 Oct 2021 3:17:42 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: In Confidence - EcoHealth's response to NIH public accusations that we failed to comply with reporting requirements
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6
CC:	Jeff Sturchio b6 David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Robert Kessler b6
Attachments:	Response to Dr. Lauer October 2021.pdf

How awful, I'm so sorry for 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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Oct 27, 2021, at 2:06 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

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.

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.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 6 May 2021 9:53:48 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 6 May 2021 9:53:47 AM -0400
Subject: RE: McCarthyism looming - Bipartisan bill re. competition with China includes language on WIV and our work
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6; David Morens b6
CC: Keusch, Gerald T b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; Robert Kessler b6

Peter:

If you read the "Cambridge Group" piece you will see that I am a co-signee of that as I have been greatly concerned about Gain-of-Function research. Just wanted to point that out in case you didn't know.

As for the article, Nicholas Wade is quite widely respected and the article is well-written with better than usual arguments. A point-by-point rebuttal might be useful if it came from someone other than you. However, the bottom line is that the Chinese have done nothing but stoke the fires of the conspiracists because of their dread of losing face. And of course if the virus was being worked on in the lab, they would be the last to admit it.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >
Subject: RE: McCarthyism looming - Bipartisan bill re. competition with China includes language on WIV and our work

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes – the conspiracists are circulating it ad infintum on the web.

We need other scientists to speak up. I'm getting vilified for research that helps prevent pandemics, and people like Ebright and Relman are publicly calling to defund our programs. My problem is that I can argue back on every single point raised, and point out the flaws, but I've been attacked so repeatedly that my opinion is considered flawed or biased.

Apparently a well-known Nobel Laureate is quoted in the article supporting a lab origin now – David Baltimore.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens < b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 Robert Kessler < b6
Subject: RE: McCarthyism looming - Bipartisan bill re. competition with China includes language on WIV and our work

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 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 12:56:14 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 12:54:26 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add). https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009357
MORENS_NIH_019827
REL0000479820

240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak; b6 Aleksei Chmura; b6 David Morens <
b6; David Morens; b6 Gerald T Keusch; b6 Roberts, Rich <
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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp b6 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009359
MORENS_NIH_019829
REL0000479820

Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: b6 b6



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009360
MORENS_NIH_019830
REL0000479820

Date: Mon, 28 Jun 2021 9:22:02 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 28 Jun [b6] AM -0400
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs.
From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6] Robert Kessler [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

Peter:

I have been following all of the emails racing back and forth, but find myself overwhelmed by the vitriol that is playing out though the media, including what might have been once considered reliable sources. At this point I do not see a clear path forward that would not just invite further polarization and more attacks.

As for Jeff Sachs, my own reaction would be to tell him to go to hell and just recuse yourself from any role in his commission. After all, it seems unlikely they are going to get any closer to finding out what really happened, especially in terms of getting evidence for a natural origin.

I'm happy to continue to find solutions, but would prefer a route that supported science generally rather than continuing to fan the flames of the lab leak.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Jeff Sachs.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Please see his email to me below, just now.

He's proposing I step off as a commissioner, recuse myself from the origins work and then am put on the one health part of the taskforce. He will also bring on biosafety people.

This would be seen widely as a further step down for me and is not acceptable in my opinion.

He's trying to bully me into a quick response.

I think he's trying to line this up as a done deal before his Wednesday morning call with the rest of the Commissioners.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sachs <b6
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Ozge Karadag <b6; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) {b6}; Yanis Ben Amor b6
Subject: Continued work on the task force

Dear Peter,

I would like to pursue a way forward in which you would continue as a member of the task force to provide expertise and inputs on the One Health approach to pandemics, while you would step away from being a commissioner and would recuse yourself from the task force's work on the question of origins of SARS-CoV-2. Hume similarly would recuse himself from any work on the origins question. I will appoint a new acting chair or co-chairs of the task force following consultations with the task force.

I am proposing this two-track approach so that the controversies and issues surrounding your work do not envelope the Commission's work and its final report, while at the same time enabling you to contribute your considerable expertise and experience to the important issues of One Health and the ecology of emerging infectious diseases.

I hope that you find this approach to be satisfactory and reasonable under the circumstances. It is my deeply considered view on how to achieve several important objectives going forward.

I will move forward expeditiously on these issues one way or another, so I would deeply appreciate your timely response.

With best wishes,

Jeff

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

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:44:37 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:50 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Zoom with Bill Novelli
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Date: Sun, Jun 4, 2023 at 10:05 AM
Subject: Re: Zoom with Bill Novelli
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T b6 >, David Morens b6 b6, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Soriano Osejo, Douglas b6 >

Yes, and told him about our group that aspires to help in organizing something. The problem is, his effort to bring all these societies together doesn't come with a plan to actually operationalize it or execute it. It requires that piece which perhaps we can provide. Same for the National Academies, all high level stuff and rhetoric that makes everyone feel good. But no real teeth and plans. That's what is missing currently I feel, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &

Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: 7 b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Jun 4, 2023, at 6:31 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Peter:

Did you discuss our joining with him in a larger effort to defend science?

Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009688
MORENS_NIH_020198
REL0000479824

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2023 7:53 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Soriano Osejo, Douglas b6 >
Subject: Re: Zoom with Bill Novelli

EXTERNAL SENDER

I've spoken to him but happy to talk to him again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Jun 3, 2023, at 3:47 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Hi:

Bill Novelli has set up a zoom call for June 20th at 10:30 am. If any of you would like to join please let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009690
MORENS_NIH_020200
REL0000479824

Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date:	Mon, 22 Mar 2021 11:11:04 AM -0500
Sent:	Wed, 10 Mar 2021 7:57:42 PM -0500
Subject:	WSJ article and introducing you to David Morens who works directly with Tony Fauci
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC:	David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Attachments:	Wuhan Lab Theory a Dark Cloud on China - WSJ.pdf

Good talking with you Rich,

As promised, attached is a pdf of the op ed from the Wall Street Journal yesterday.

I'm also cc'ing David Morens who is a Sr. Advisor to Tony Fauci and is fully aware of the issues I've been having with NIH on our work in China. I've used his gmail address, but his NIAID address is: dmorens@niaid.nih.gov

David – Rich Roberts is the person who coordinated a response to the NIH termination of our grant from 88 Nobel Laureates, and is continuing to speak out about the abuse of the funding system for political gain. He would like to reach out to Tony by email but obviously that's difficult these days and I was hoping you'd make sure an email from Rich to Tony would be read.

I will now exit the conversation because of my clear conflict of interest!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 15 Aug 2021 2:10:22 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 15 Aug 2021 2:06:31 PM -0400
Subject: RE: feedback on wild animals
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Jason Gale b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
CC: b6 b6 Garry, Robert F b6 b6

Disappointing your editor doesn't get it yet.

All off-the-record, but please talk to your editor about how hard we argued with the China side re. whether live mammals were being sold or not. The fact that we couldn't state categorically in the WHO report that live mammals of species known to host SARSr-CoVs were present in the market was used by the lab leak contingent to ridicule the evidence we did find – frozen ferret-badger & rabbit carcasses left behind after the cleanout. Anyone with half a brain could see what was going on here, but having that paper as evidence would have built a much stronger case in my opinion.

Also mention to your editors that the truth will out – there are papers coming down the pipeline that add weight to a bat-int.host-human pathway and zero for the lab leak BS. This article will be one of the few right now that gets on the right side of history – surely that matters?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: b6
Cc: b6 b6;
b6
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022731
MORENS_NIH_043735
REL0000479830

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: b6 At: 08/15/21 09:03:03 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: b6
b6 b6
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:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net > 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 < b6
To: JASON GALE, b6
b6 b6
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:) b6
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:41 AM

To: b6
b6
b6 Garry, Robert F < b6 du
b6
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 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.

<><><><>

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.

<><><><><>

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. T**he 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.

<><><><><><>

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.”

<><><><><><>

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*.

<><><><><><>

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

<><><><><><><><>

~~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.

<><><><><><><><><>

~~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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022737
MORENS_NIH_043741
REL0000479830

(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.

<><><><><><><><><>

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.

<><><><><><><><><>

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.]

<><><><><><><>

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.]

<><><><><><><><>

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.)

<><><><><><>

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.)

<><><><><><><>

"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.”

<><><><><><><>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:02 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6
Attachments: image004.png; image001.jpg; image008.png; image003.png

---

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** <b6
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 9:46 AM
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Peter Daszak <b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6, Gerald T Keusch b6, Aleksei Chmura <
b6 David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

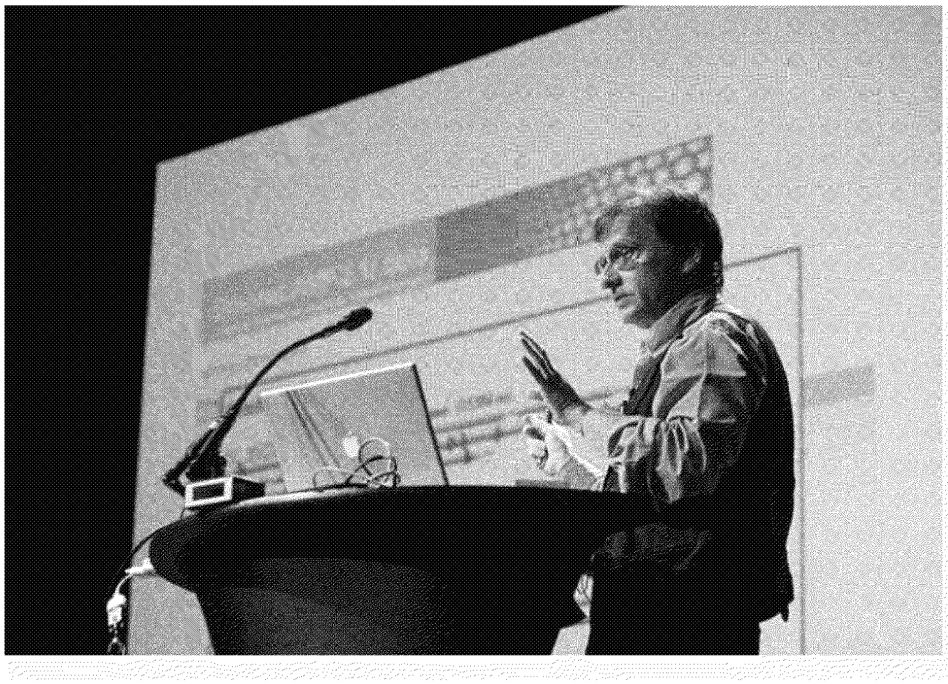
Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

US RTK
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW
PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006241
MORENS_NIH_015131
REL0000479831

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a paper about novel coronaviruses EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicin*e," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a joke – he should be locked up

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006244
MORENS_NIH_015134
REL0000479831

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Roberts, Rich < b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006245
MORENS_NIH_015135
REL0000479831

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak b6 g > 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006247
MORENS_NIH_015137
REL0000479831

Date: Thu, 13 May 2021 5:16:44 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)

CC: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

Thanks, Jerry, for speaking to him. I sent him the article you mentioned shortly after I saw it, and I have also been talking to Arthur on background about this over recent months.

Bravo for what you said, which is pretty much what I have been saying to him.

I suggested Arthur try to interview Tony directly and connected him to our "secret" back channel. He emailed Tony a few hours ago.

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda. MD 20892-2520
B (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
3 (b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

Just off the phone with Arthur Allen from Kaiser Family Foundation News, thanks to an introduction from David. I spent 45 minutes talking to him about this GOF stuff, and why that was a pejorative term being used to

drum up support to ban certain kinds of research into evolutionary biology of viruses and viral pathogenesis, with the ban being far more dangerous than any possible leak of a created super pathogen. Peter, I characterized you as a hero. Don't disappoint me or undermine my credibility (said tongue in cheek to be absolutely clear). In response to a question I said you were the member of the WHO team who would most want to find out if there was a leak of virus from the laboratory because your integrity as a scientist would want to know how this virus became a human pandemic so that we can try to better prevent it in the first place, and if not find it as quickly as possible in order to stop it from spreading. So while on the list of priorities the emergence from bats through some mammal to spillover to humans was at the very top, and lab origin was at the very bottom, you would not be the one to eliminate the latter from the list. That said, I do think that after characterizing it as highly unlikely, it was a mistake for the WHO report to say it should not be explored any further. I suspect that was more an offering to the Chinese to keep the door open to the next step in the investigation than anything else. After all, it would not be at all possible if the Chinese didn't actually agree to allow it to happen.

I also saw the Garry paper this morning and not only brought it to Allen's attention (he said he had just become aware of it 30 minutes before we spoke) but I also characterized it as the first piece of actual field derived evidence to evaluate, and really very powerful evidence that the evolution of the precursor virus to CoV-2 happened in nature and not in a lab. I think he will look at it carefully and use it.

We also talked politics and the consequences of continuing expression of concerns about GOF research, with my take that if certain lines of research were cut off instead of managed/regulated/overseen the lost benefits for humankind would so overwhelm the miniscule chance of unintended harm like an asymptomatic infected person leaving a lab and initiating a global pandemic resulting in (according to Chris Murray et al) more than 900,000 deaths in the US to date, and over 7 million global deaths and counting as the deadly outbreak in India continues to wreak havoc, and without doubt spread to other countries, travel bans or not. I made the analogy to recombinant DNA, and more recently to CRIPR where the benefits overwhelm the chance of inadvertent harm. And I said the small number of scientists who are on this bandwagon can really harm the future of science to explore, understand, and use knowledge about microbial evolution and pathogenesis to develop treatment, vaccines, and diagnostics, playing into the hands of the crazies, the conspiracy community, and scientifically illiterate so called communities of conscience or those who have no concern for the common good.

I asked him to do a good job in his write up. He promised, and I will hold him to it if I can figure out how to accomplish that.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

I 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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016052
MORENS_NIH_033803
REL0000479835

>
> David:
>
> That is a very interesting article. I will have to read it more fully, but on quickly skimming through it does make a strong argument against the lab-leak theory.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: (b) (6)
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email: (b) (6)
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:54 AM
> To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
> Subject: FW: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
>
>
> See link way down below
>
> d
>
>
>
>
>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> B(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) (b) (6)
> 3(b) (6)
>
> Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.
>
>
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016053
MORENS_NIH_033804
REL0000479835

>
> -----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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016054
MORENS_NIH_033805
REL0000479835

Date:	Wed, 26 May 2021 3:42:44 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 26 May 2021 3:42:37 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >
To:	Peter Daszak [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6] >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

I sure do agree with the last complete sentence in Peters note. That's what I would hope to get across to the reporter tomorrow. I'll stay away from the science I sort of understand but not the granularity where all of the important insights reside. One of my mentors (not Donald Rumsfeld) always said "know what you know" as applied to clinical medicine. The implication was to also know what you don't know because that's what you need to add to the I know bucket.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] gov >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

I was just talking about that statement with a couple of our Board members. My view is this is Biden's way of punting it down the road for 90 days, hoping the hype dies down, and hoping something shifts the narrative. He looks like he's doing something, while everyone knows that the US intelligence agencies are unlikely to get any more clarity in the meantime.

The real clarity will come when people are allowed back into China to actually do some research. The more lab leak discussion, the less chance of that happening. That's a direct

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 b6 >; Keusch, Jerry (b6 <
b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:09 PM
Subject: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

1 hour ago - World

Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014421
MORENS_NIH_027118
REL0000479845



Zachary Basu

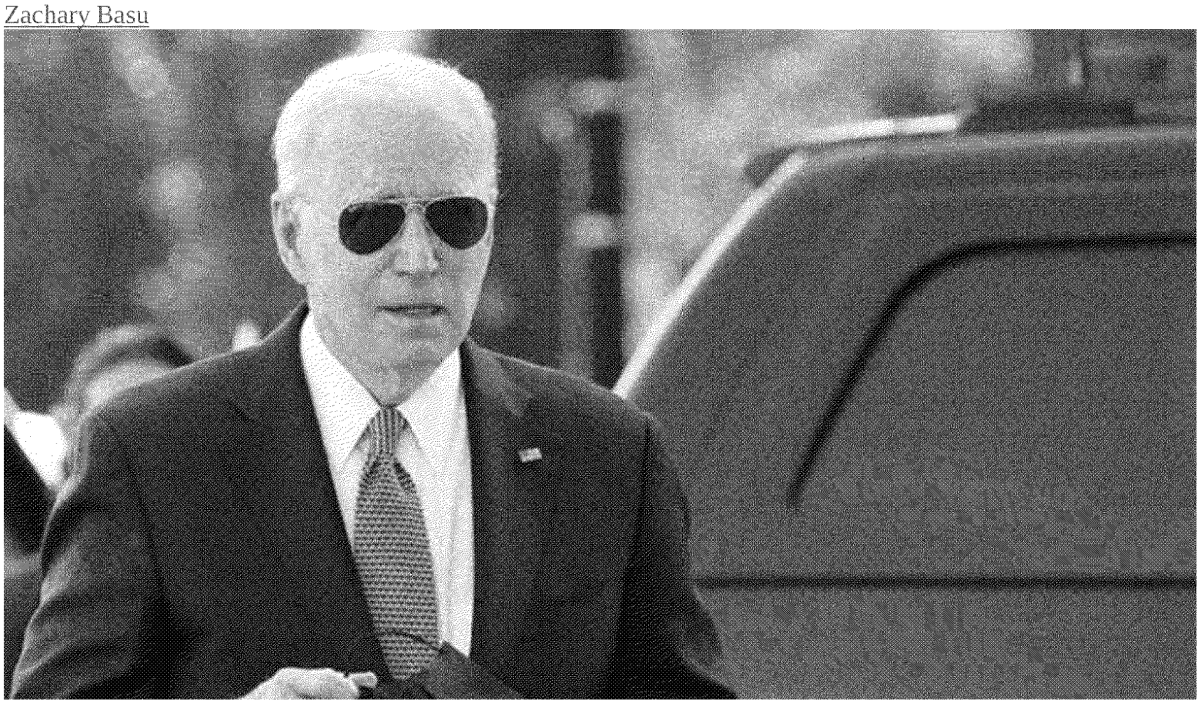


Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Biden announced Wednesday he has asked the U.S. intelligence community to "redouble their efforts" to investigate the origins of the coronavirus and provide a report within 90 days that "could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion."

Why it matters: The debate over the origins of COVID-19 has been reinvigorated in recent days by previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, that three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill enough to be hospitalized in November 2019.

The state of play: Biden said in a statement that the U.S. intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios" for the origins of the virus — one, that it emerged from human contact with an infected and animal, and two, that it was the result of an accidental laboratory leak.

- A joint team from the World Health Organization and China issued an inconclusive report in March that described the so-called lab-leak theory as "extremely unlikely."
- But the report has been criticized by the U.S. and WHO leadership for its methodology and lack of transparency from the Chinese government, and top U.S. officials have called for a new investigation.

What they're saying: Biden said the U.S. intelligence community's current position is that "while two elements in the IC leans toward the former scenario and one leans more toward the latter – each with low or moderate confidence – the majority of elements do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other."

- "I have now asked the Intelligence Community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Biden said in a statement.
- "As part of that report, I have asked for areas of further inquiry that may be required, including specific questions for China. I have also asked that this effort include work by our National Labs and other agencies of our government to augment the Intelligence Community's efforts. And I have asked the Intelligence Community to keep Congress fully apprised of its work."

Our thought bubble: Whether COVID-19 ultimately originated in an animal or in a lab, the bulk of the evidence is in China, which limits what the U.S. can find out. But Biden's statement underscores the fact that this debate will not end any time soon, and that the U.S. could ramp up pressure on China to cooperate.

Go deeper: The COVID lab-leak theory goes mainstream

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright

law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Mon, 6 May 2024 10:06:00 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: US Tight to Know: Virus hunter at center of 'lab leak theory' grilled by congressional committee
From:	David Morens [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6]; peter hotez [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png

David Morens

b6

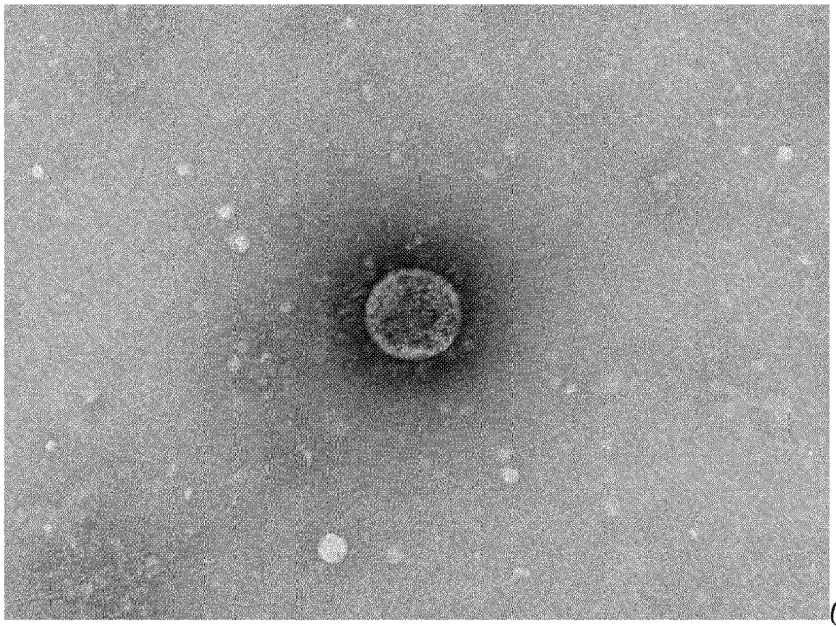
[b6] [b6] [b6] (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** [b6]
Date: Mon, May 6, 2024 at 6:01 AM
Subject: US Tight to Know: Virus hunter at center of 'lab leak theory' grilled by congressional committee
To:

Virus hunter at center of 'lab leak theory' grilled by congressional committee

Posted: May 4, 2024 by Emily Kepp



(Photo credit: NIAID)

EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak testified before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Wednesday about his coronavirus research collaboration situated at the epicenter of the worst pandemic in a century.

Daszak's organization collaborated closely with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a lab complex specializing in bat-borne viruses, including SARS-related coronaviruses. The lab hosted one of the world's largest coronavirus databases before the data was made inaccessible in the fall of 2019.

Daszak is the first scientist connected to the coronavirus research in Wuhan called to testify before the committee. Democrats and Republicans alike aggressively questioned Daszak on his downplaying of the risks involved in these coronavirus research projects and questioned whether he breached laws regulating federal grantees.

Daszak's scientific publications, research proposals and grant reports have stoked concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic emerged from his partnering lab in Wuhan. Their collaboration discovered one of the closest known viruses to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Their work included gain-of-function experiments that made coronaviruses more deadly. Other internal records obtained by U.S. Right to Know revealed their collaboration's particular interest in viruses with unique features found in the genome of SARS-CoV-2.

The revelations have provoked questions about whether an organization that promised to safeguard national security by preventing pandemics could have contributed to one.

"EcoHealth's actions themselves are a threat to national security," Chair Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, said. "Dr. Daszak has displayed a disregard for the risks of gain-of-function research."

Daszak described the scrutiny of his work as an attack on science and expressed concerns about threats to his safety.

"For years, we repeatedly briefed the U.S. government, international agencies and spoke to the press and public about the risk of a coronavirus outbreak emerging in China from bats," Daszak said. "Unfortunately in 2019, just as we predicted, a bat origin SARS-related coronavirus emerged and spread in the city of Wuhan, leading to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Internal records U.S. Right to Know reported earlier this year suggested Daszak intended to outsource risky experiments on viruses like SARS-CoV-2 to Wuhan at an inadequate biosafety level with few protections

MORENS_NIH_051089
REL0000479852

against airborne viruses — BSL-2. The records suggest this was done in order to save on costs without the knowledge of federal funders. In a draft of a proposal later rejected by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Daszak said he intended to downplay the extent of the Wuhan lab's involvement in the project as a whole, the records also showed.

When Daszak sat for a transcribed interview with the committee last year, he testified under oath that the work was slated for BSL-3 in the U.S.

"My understanding for that work it was going to be done at [the University of North Carolina]," Daszak said at the time.

In a new interim report, the committee recommends that the Justice Department investigate Daszak for possible criminal violations, including for making false statements.

Daszak insisted that the final proposal, which states the research would occur in BSL-3, was accurate, in spite of his private note that he would intentionally downplay the extent of the involvement of the Wuhan lab, which typically operated in BSL-2.

Daszak said that conversations with DARPA before the proposal's submission included an honest discussion about the extent to which the Wuhan Institute of Virology would be involved. He flatly answered "no" when asked whether he had any knowledge of the Wuhan Institute of Virology conducting experiments of concern to generate viruses like SARS-CoV-2.

"There was no attempt to deceive at all," Daszak said.

MORENS_NIH_051090
REL0000479852



Daszak (right) enters the hearing room. Photo credit: U.S. Right to Know.

These comments did not adequately clarify the discrepancy between his organization's internal records and his transcribed interview, the committee said.

"The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people," the committee said in a statement, which did not provide further details.

Daszak has since the pandemic's earliest days asserted that any suggestion an accident at his partnering lab could have sparked the pandemic is nothing more than conspiracy theory.

But when pressed Daszak acknowledged he did not have perfect insight into all of the samples stored there, the viruses sequenced there or whether the lab moved forward with high-risk research proposals, instead simply insisting that his colleagues in Wuhan are "good scientists."

"I've had a long relationship with the scientists in that lab," Daszak said. "You get to understand people and you get to know them and you hear the same stories over twenty years, you hear if there are any discrepancies in those stories. … I have no reason to think they were under pressure to lie. … These are good scientists."

For the first time, the committee broke through prior partisan intransigence — with Democrats focused on a Wuhan wet market while Republicans homed in on the lab. On Wednesday Democrats and Republicans alike grilled Daszak.

MORENS_NIH_051091
REL0000479852

The bipartisan questioning broke from years of efforts to stigmatize criticism of EcoHealth as conspiratorial or political — efforts driven in part by Daszak. For years, much of the scrutiny and reporting about Daszak has come from online sleuths and independent reporters.

Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., asked Daszak pointed questions while defending former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, NIAID, and former NIH Director Francis Collins from criticisms arising from "the bad actions of a single grantee."

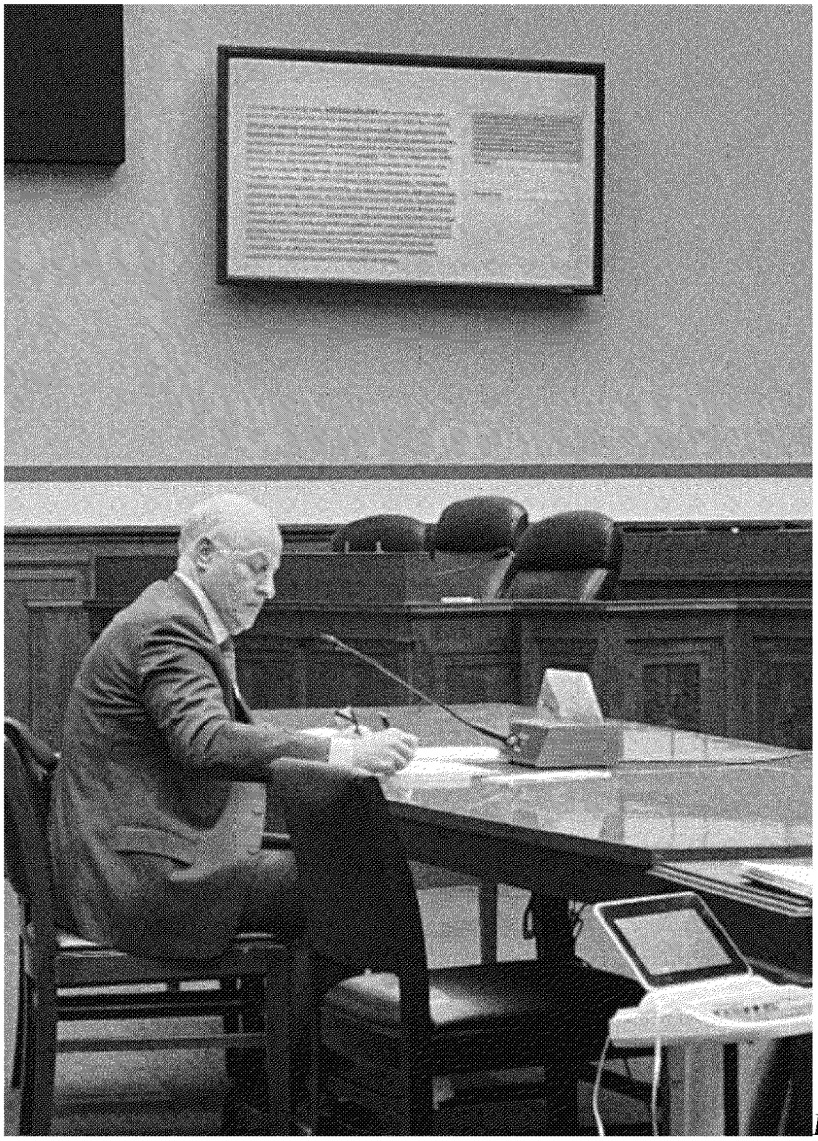
NIAID, an institute under NIH, funded EcoHealth and a subcontract with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"We won't accuse you of creating COVID-19 simply because that's not what we can do with the available evidence. It doesn't demonstrate it," Dingell said. "But to the extent you have considered misrepresenting facts or done so, we will consider that a very serious mistake."

The hearing did not show whether the COVID-19 pandemic emerged from a lab accident or from nature. Instead, it underscored how much information is still missing about research underway in Wuhan immediately before the first cases emerged.

After years of denials, Daszak acknowledged for the first time that the Wuhan Institute of Virology could have unpublished coronavirus sequences collected over several years immediately before the COVID-19 pandemic, raising the possibility that SARS-CoV-2 was among them.

"It's possible that they have hidden some viruses that we don't know about, yes, of course," Daszak said.



Daszak is asked about records obtained by U.S. Right to Know suggesting Daszak misled the government about the safety of coronavirus engineering experiments.

Daszak pitched his work as essential for maintaining open channels of communication with scientists in countries where dangerous viruses circulate. But Daszak only communicated with Wuhan Institute of Virology Senior Scientist Zhengli Shi seeking lab notebooks once after the pandemic started, a committee investigator said. Daszak did little more than forward a letter from the National Institutes of Health, according to the committee. He never asked if the Wuhan lab moved ahead with a research proposal to generate viruses like SARS-CoV-2.

After the hearing, U.S. Right to Know asked Daszak why he hadn't asked his longtime colleagues in Wuhan for the sequences of viruses sampled by the lab in the years immediately preceding the pandemic. Daszak did not reply.

In addition, the committee noted that it was nearly two years after the deadline – after the pandemic had already begun – that EcoHealth submitted the progress report that should have detailed the research undertaken in the year before the COVID-19 pandemic emerged. While Daszak has faulted technical failings of the NIH website, the committee's investigation and an NIH forensic electronic audit found his claim to be unsupported.

In addition to the committee's report, *Vanity Fair* reported an email obtained by the committee showing a dispute over lab safety between Daszak and University of North Carolina coronavirologist Ralph Baric —

MORENS_NIH_051093
REL0000479852

another close collaborator of his and of the Wuhan Institute of Virology— after Baric cosigned a letter calling for more serious consideration of the lab origin hypothesis. Baric expressed concern about the experiments being undertaken there at a low biosafety level, BSL-2.

"We checked with Zhengli, who let us know that she used BSL-2 with negative pressure and appropriate PPE,'" Daszak wrote.

"Negative pressure" refers to an air flow system that helps protect lab scientists from aerosols. BSL-2 labs do not typically have negative airflow.

"Your being told a bunch of BS. Bsl2 w negative pressure, give me a break," Baric wrote back. "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."

Daszak repeatedly pitched his work as essential for preventing the next pandemic. But in defending his pre-pandemic work, he defended practices that many scientists criticize as generating new pandemic risks.

Daszak defended conducting bat coronavirus research at a biosafety level with few protections against airborne viruses and not subjecting gain-of-function research on bat viruses to more rigorous administrative oversight, even when those viruses can infect human cells.

Both Republicans and Democrats questioned whether Daszak has been a responsible steward of taxpayer funds. The committee is recommending Daszak and EcoHealth be debarred from receiving further federal funding.

The NIH would have to recommend debarment to the Department of Health and Human Services. They would be ineligible for new federal funding for three years.

The hearing sets the stage for testimony from Fauci in a hearing on June 3. He will testify for the first time since stepping away from NIAID.

The day before the hearing, Senior Advisor to the Director at National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases David Morens, a longtime aide of Fauci and a friend and mentor to Daszak, turned over 30,000 emails to the committee.

"This investigation does not end today," Wenstrup said.

Wuhan research

EcoHealth's grant proposals demonstrate an interest in the years immediately before the pandemic to generate viruses that share the unique features of SARS-CoV-2. A virus expedition and engineering proposal named "DEFUSE" — first reported by the independent research group DRASTIC in 2021 — lays out what some scientists have likened to a blueprint for generating a virus like SARS-CoV-2.

Daszak dismissed DEFUSE as "utterly irrelevant to the origins of COVID," emphasizing that DEFUSE was rejected by the intended funding agency, DARPA.

But pressed by the committee, Daszak conceded he never asked if his collaborators in Wuhan moved ahead with the work independently.

DEFUSE shows the collaboration's interest in a feature called a furin cleavage site, specifically furin cleavage sites in a position on coronavirus spike protein called the S1/S2 junction. SARS-CoV-2 is unique among viruses in its family for its furin cleavage site at the S1/S2 junction. Asked whether experiments with furin cleavage sites were performed, either in Wuhan or UNC, Daszak answered "no."

MORENS_NIH_051094
REL0000479852

However, some ambiguity remains about the nature of EcoHealth's work in the months before the pandemic's start.

EcoHealth submitted its report detailing research and experiments funded by an NIH grant from June 2018 through May 2019 — due in September 2019 — nearly two years later, after the pandemic had already begun.

Wenstrup said in a media interview that some of the work outlined in DEFUSE may have been completed with NIH funding, but the committee has not provided evidence.

"Here was a person that was through these internal emails telling us he was willing to deceive the federal government. But then he goes over to NIH once he's been turned down there [at DARPA] and he does get the grant," Wenstrup said.

Daszak said he would provide more records attesting to EcoHealth's attempts to submit the NIH grant report.

In addition, Daszak made shifting statements throughout the hearing about his access to and knowledge of sequence data stored at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

In an email released by EcoHealth ahead of the hearing, Daszak said that 15,000 coronavirus samples and around 700 coronavirus genetic sequences discovered with U.S. funding remained at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

EcoHealth's NIAID grant was suspended in 2020 after concerns about a lab leak first arose, but reinstated in part so that Daszak could access samples at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, according to two NIAID aides.

Director of the NIAID Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Emily Erbelding told the committee in a transcribed interview that she believed Daszak said he had access to viral samples as he sought reinstatement of his NIAID grant.

Daszak disputed that, attributing it to a conflation of the words "sequences" and "samples," and stated that a condition of the reinstatement of the grant was that EcoHealth would no longer do on the ground work in China.

Daszak testified that Chinese authorities denied EcoHealth's request to remove these samples.

In a statement, EcoHealth claimed that the sequences of the Wuhan viruses described in Daszak's email had all been made public in a 2020 paper, Latinne et al.

But after being pressed by the Subcommittee Staff Director Mitch Benzine, Daszak conceded the paper's methodology only included virus sampling expeditions up to the year 2015 and that the lab had likely done more sampling since then.

In other words, Daszak had no insight into the sequences of viruses collected by the Wuhan lab in the four years before the pandemic's outbreak in 2019, or whether SARS-CoV-2 could have been among them.

Research by online sleuths with DRASTIC also suggests the Wuhan lab has discovered viruses that are not published. Coronavirus sequences submitted by the Wuhan lab to public sources dramatically declined after 2015. Yet grant proposals outlined plans to discover more. Daszak said in 2019 that they had discovered 50 SARS-related novel coronaviruses.

Systemic issues

The hearing exposed apparent weaknesses in American biosecurity and biosafety.

Daszak — who the committee alleges has not fully cooperated with their investigation and made false

MORENS_NIH_051095
REL0000479852

statements under oath — advised the Defense Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the origins of COVID-19.

Daszak testified that he spoke with U.S. intelligence agencies about the Wuhan lab and emerging pandemic threats before the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation as part of a standing committee at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Daszak denied knowledge of ties between the Wuhan lab and the Chinese military, despite them being confirmed in a 2021 State Department fact sheet memo and 2023 declassified U.S. intelligence summary.

When asked about his decision to partner with a lab identified as having a shortage of biosafety training by the State Department, as well as military ties, Daszak testified that the State Department reviews his proposals to NIH.

"Something doesn't add up. I completely agree because it's the same State Department that reviews our proposals to NIH and allows us to work with that lab," Daszak said. "If the State Department considers that to be a military lab, surely they would have said no the WIV is not appropriate for doing this research. However, they reviewed it and said yes. … Something doesn't add up there because it is them that gave us the go ahead to work with WIV."

The hearing also showed that risky gain-of-function on animal viruses poised for human infection fall into a regulatory loophole.

Daszak denied that his organization conducted gain-of-function research because the bat coronaviruses had not been shown to infect humans, even though they had been shown to infect human cells in the lab.

But if the government were to accept Daszak's explanation that his work was not gain-of-function because the animal viruses haven't spilled over yet — given the premise of EcoHealth's work is to discover viruses poised to spillover before they do — much of the group's work would be excluded from more rigorous oversight.

The committee made a number of suggestions in its interim report aimed at strengthening biosafety, including moving screening of high-risk virology out of NIAID, incorporating national security concerns into evaluations of high-risk virology in certain countries, and having a unified regulatory scheme for gain-of-function research across government agencies.

Meanwhile, Daszak confirmed that EcoHealth is preparing a field biosafety manual.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:37 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:02:45 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments: image004.png; image005.jpg; image008.png; image007.png

---

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** < b6
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 11:24 AM
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich b6, Peter Daszak <, Gerald T Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura <
b6 g >, David Morens < b6 , Jeffrey Sturchio <
b6 >

Funny!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 9:23 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6] Aleksei Chmura < [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

US RTK

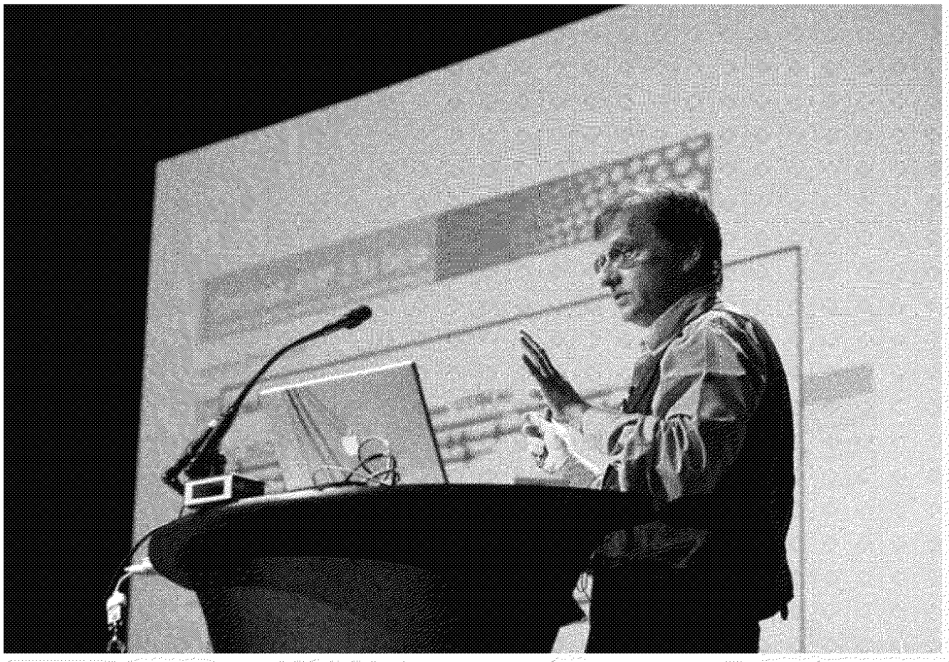
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a ‘partner’ to EcoHealth Alliance

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 Medicin*e," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology

was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 11:28:20 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 11:28:06 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]

That's exactly what needs to be said!

The definition of a P3CO relevant pathogen is as follows (from https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf):
Section II. Scope and Definitions For the purposes of this HHS P3CO Framework:
A. A potential pandemic pathogen (PPP) is a pathogen that satisfies both of the following:
1. It is likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations; and
2. It is likely highly virulent and likely to cause significant morbidity and/or mortality in humans.
B. An enhanced PPP is defined as a PPP resulting from the enhancement of the transmissibility and/or virulence of a pathogen. Enhanced PPPs do not include naturally occurring pathogens that are circulating in or have been recovered from nature, regardless of their pandemic potential

How on any planet is a bat-CoV that's never been seen in people, "likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations"? The scientists in the Intercept article that thought our work was GoF seem to have been operating on the assumption that any growth or impact of a chimeric virus at any time above the parental strain means it's GoF. They've forgotten that 1) these are bat viruses have never been shown to infect people, and that the growth rates of the parental strain caught up with it by the end of the expt.

Add to that the never-mentioned point that the spike proteins are taken from a bat CoV that presumably is alive and well in large colonies of bats flying over people's houses every night in China. By doing this expt without culturing that virus, we reduce risk. By identifying that virus as a potential spillover risk, we can work with these communities to reduce exposure. It's exactly what we'll need to do if we want to beat future EIDs before they become pandemics!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:14 AM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Subject: Re: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

I just followed up with Simone McCarthy who is writing due SCMP on the GoF issues and noted the Intercept crap and the virus growth curve. I had previously sent her my perspective via email. Now I said the sinister implications of the intercept take was pure BS because the virus level was different only at the first time point, it was not a human pathogen, it was a legal and legitimate experiment by NIH regulations, EHA reported it as they were supposed to, and there are no scientifically valid extrapolations to human virulence or risk.

I also said it was important for her to set the record straight What did I miss and I'll be happy to follow up before she posts her article.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 13, 2021, at 10:48 AM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:
>
> Never heard of them and presume they come from the Dark Side of the moon, pun intended…
> d
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Sep 13, 2021, at 00:16, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:
> >
> > I was tempted to respond - it really irritated me for some reason - more
> > than others. Maybe because he (almost certainly a he) comes across as
> > otherwise intelligent...
> >
> > In the end I deleted and blocked...as I'm supposed to!
> >
> > Cheers,
> >
> > Peter
> >
> > Peter Daszak
> > President
> >
> > EcoHealth Alliance
> > 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> > New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006304
MORENS_NIH_015194
REL0000479869

USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens
b6
Subject: FW: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

I finally made contact with Pink Floyd and it's a nameless email. I took the last part to heart, had a nice day, said FU to Pink Floyd, and had a lovely dinner out here in the Berkshires.

Have either of you encountered this one before?

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University, Boston MA 02118

-----Original Message-----
From: b6
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

Dear Professor, Mister/Madam

Congratulations to your publication (Calisher et al. (2020)) in the journal THE LANCET which has attracted many attentions.

However, you have to explain seriously this report about your publication (which has been published in The Daily Telegraph in UK): Revealed: How scientists who dismissed Wuhan lab theory are linked to Chinese researchers Cover-up alleged over Lancet letter that effectively shut down scientific debate into whether coronavirus was manipulated or leaked from lab

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/10/revealed- scientists-dismissed-wuhan-lab-theory-linked-chinese/

Reference:

Calisher, C., Carroll, D., Colwell, R., Corley, R. B., Daszak, P., Drosten, C., ... & Turner, M. (2020). Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19. The Lancet, 395(10226), e42-e43.

I hope you can accept my interview and give a serious answer in the public media.

Have a nice day!

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:30 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:32:48 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Question re. NIH refusing to allow
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 12:09 PM
Subject: RE: Question re. NIH refusing to allow
To: David Morens b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >

I don't recall either, but to me it would have been outside of Zerhouni's character to speak truth to power as Peter's comment suggests. He was certainly there for a portion of her term as senator. But so was Tony for all of it. Jerry

From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 11:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Subject: Re: Question re. NIH refusing to allow

I do not remember for sure but think it was Zerhouni. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009811
MORENS_NIH_020321
REL0000479871

On Fri, May 5, 2023, 11:22 Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Rich just shared a 'fruity' quote he gave to the Daily Telegraph re. Francis Collins' particular weakness in terminating NIH funding on direction from Trump. I'll leave it for you to either read it in the press, or hear it from Rich – it's a cracker…

It reminded me of the opposite outcome, a story I read when Hillary Clinton was a New York Senator and tried to push NIH to fund 9/11 syndrome grants that had been rejected. My memory is that she met with Tony Fauci, who politely (but repeatedly) reminded her that the NIH grant review system is independent and can't be politically interfered with.

David, Jerry – do you know where that was reported – I can't find it online. David – do you remember if it was Tony Fauci or Elias Zerhouni that Hillary met with?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009812
MORENS_NIH_020322
REL0000479871

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cc5125580f2b34aaf3fbe08db8a1098f4%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=1DEGxXiQV67iYiwuKqp8VtHDG8iZ31%2Bo6o9whg6KjDI%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Subject: RE: New White House pandemic center

Typical government approach – ask for something to be done and then give no money to get it done.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: New White House pandemic center

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced

Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

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 1:29:49 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 1:29:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]

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" [b6] >
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Cc: "Roberts, Rich" [b6] >, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >, Peter Daszak [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: 7[b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

b6
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > 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 b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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 b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <b6> wrote:

It's just
b6

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com> 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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio **b6** 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 **b6**
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak **b6**
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T **b6**; David Morens **b6**; Rich Roberts **b6**; Aleksei Chmura **b6**; Jeff Sturchio **b6**
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: **b6**

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6 David Morens <b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <b6

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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001289
MORENS_NIH_007359
REL0000479873

To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano [b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
[b6]g

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak <[b6]> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 10:23:21 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 10:23:10 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From:	"Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
CC:	Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Attachments:	image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.png; image007.png; image008.png

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

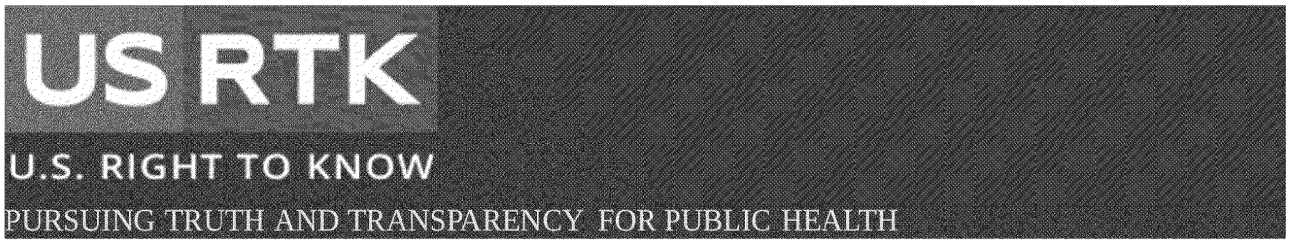
We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

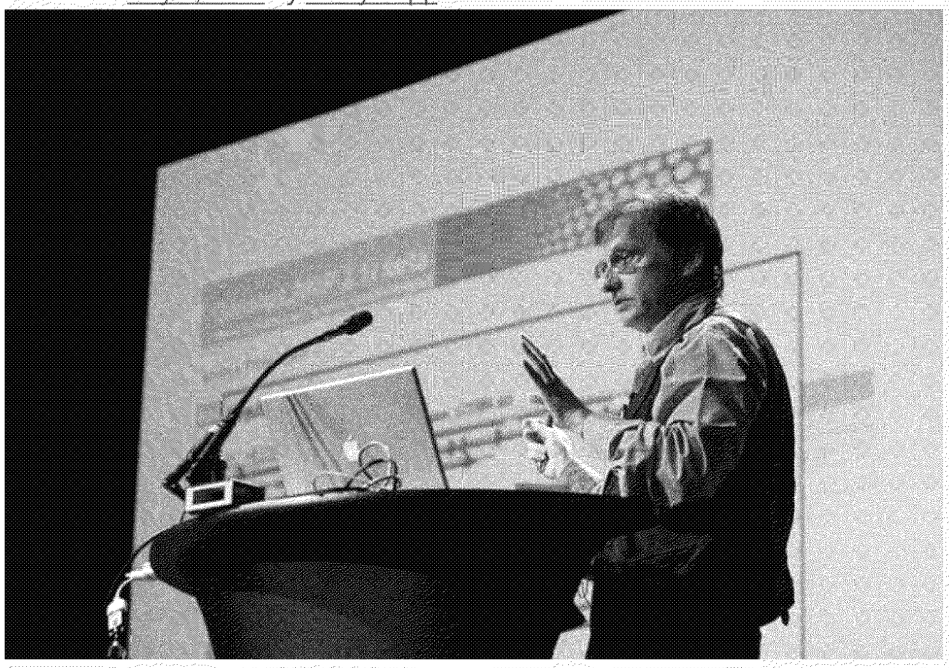
Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007949
MORENS_NIH_017300
REL0000479875

experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't,"

Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology
0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 ; Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; David Morens < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skyp b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak b6 g > 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/

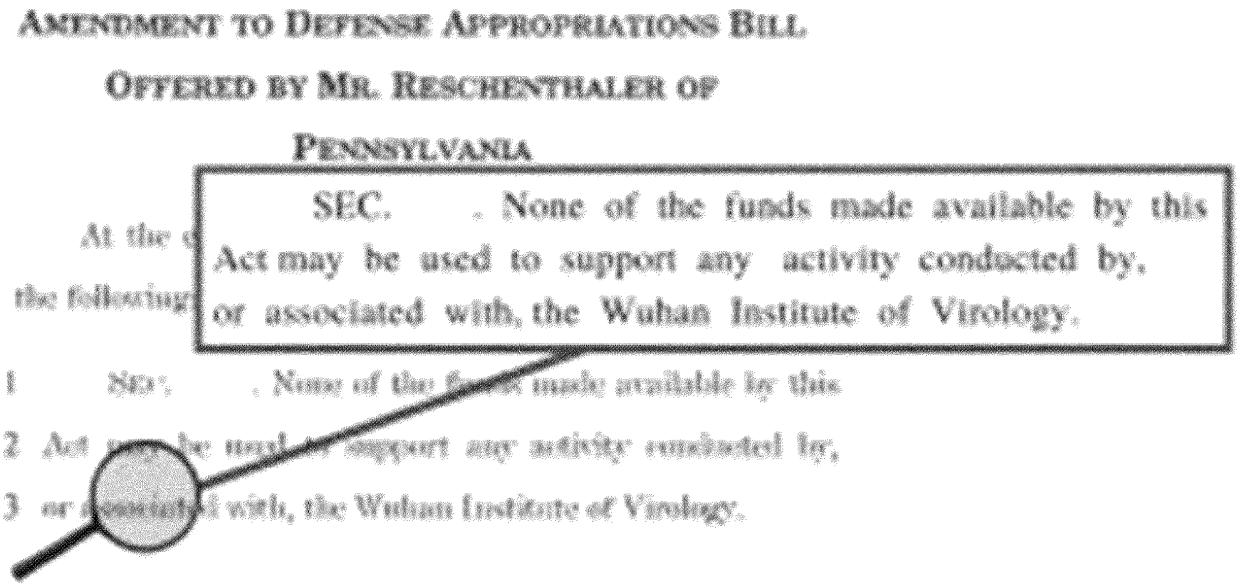
PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007953
MORENS_NIH_017304
REL0000479875

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S. taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now **says** that the lab leak hypothesis deserves "further investigation."

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.


AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF PENNSYLVANIA

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007954
MORENS_NIH_017305
REL0000479875



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_007955
MORENS_NIH_017306
REL0000479875

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6; David Morens <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6; Rich Roberts <b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007957
MORENS_NIH_017308
REL0000479875

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; David Morens b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Peter Daszak b6; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007958
MORENS_NIH_017309
REL0000479875

Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs b6
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007959
MORENS_NIH_017310
REL0000479875

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs b6 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 b6 > wrote:
> >
> > Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research
> >
> > **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> > Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007960
MORENS_NIH_017311
REL0000479875

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007961
MORENS_NIH_017312
REL0000479875

On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs < b6 > 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 < b6 > wrote:
>
> Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.
>
> One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.
>
> Thank you! Peter
>
> **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
> Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
> Health Policy Scholar
> Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007963
MORENS_NIH_017314
REL0000479875

b6 wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

> Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 wrote:
>
> Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:
>
> *2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several*

evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor
https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels [redacted] b6
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor < b6 >; Zinabou, Genet < b6 >; Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali < b6 >; Alejandro Gaviria < b6 >; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro < b6 >; Bottazzi, Maria Elena < b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 > < b6 >; Lara Aknin < b6 >; Chandrika Bahadur < b6 >; Lauren Barredo < b6 >; Chris Bullen < b6 >; gaby cuevas < b6 >; Andrew Haines < b6 >

b6 >; Neena Joshi <
b6 Ozge Karadag Karadag <
b6 Phoebe Koundouri <
b6 Gabriela b6
>; Morales, Andrés b6
b6 >; Francesca Colombo <
b6 ; Guillaume
Lafortune b6 >; Jeff
Sachs b6 ; Yanis Ben Amor <
b6 ; Emma Torres <
b6 >; George Laryea-Adjei <
; Uyen Kim Huynh <
b6 b6 <
b6 Vaira Vike Freiberga <
b6 ;
b6
Kirsten Brosbøl b6
b6
Juan Pablo Cadena < b6 John
Thwaites b6 ,
Jong-Koo Lee b6 ; Booyuel Kim <
b6 ; Muhammad Ali Pate <
b6 >; Miriam Khamadi Were <
b6 >; b6 ; b6
>; b6
b6 >; Marissa VanRy <
b6 Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <
b6 >; Susan Michie b6
Jeffrey Lazarus < b6
Margaret Hellard >;
Shweta Khandelwal b6 >;
Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) <
b6

Cc: Juliana Bartels b6

Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point

response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie
--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
b6

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Sun, 18 Sep 2022 9:40:54 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 18 Sep 2022 9:40:42 PM -0400
Subject: Re: FOIA Request - PDN Contact
From: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

Jerry,

Kara Citarella or whomever from NIH has contacted BU would need to share the FOIA request letter. NIH has previously shared the original FOIA requests when asked, so I expect they would now too.

NIH will also share all their response records (emails) for your review and recommended redactions. Usually there is a requested timeline for response too and this may be negotiated depending upon the volume of the records. Additionally, your legal team may wish to argue on reducing scope, but we would need to see the specifics of the FOIA request.

Once your legal team has the FOIA request, it would be helpful if you share it - or put them in contact with me and I can chase up?

Cheers,

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA
Chief of Staff

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

[b6] (mobile)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

On Sep 18, 2022, at 20:40, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Can we FOIA them? NIH counsel didn't tell me when they got in touch the end of last week. It's with the BU legal office now and they requested that NIH send the emails in question to legal and to me. When I looked at what is stored on my BU server all of the emails are from your gmail account.

Do you know who is behind this FOIA request? Can they be FOIA'ed? It would be interesting to see what they are saying in their back channels, who is involved, and how they are planning to attack all of us.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 8:01 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: Re: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

Peter and colleagues, you are obviously more on top of this than me

I have been foia'd so many times in the past few years, and so thoroughly, probably st leadt 20-40 times, that i truly doubt there is anything new here

And apart from my occasional outrageous vulgarities, which i will defend as entirely justified, i have written NOTHING i would not be happy to defend in front of a Congressional committee. My sole concern is boxing in Tony and hurting you.

I can and will defend myself by saying, truly and with conviction, there was nothing i have said/done that was not in the interest of the best science, and that my defense of you was not in the interest of friendship but because you and EcoHealth colleagues were doing the very best and most cutting edge research, which adds to the truth, given that research is defined as "the creation of new knowledge". It is only about discovering what is true, and not cozying up to what is false. I am hard-ass about that, and i never stay silent when bullshit prevails

I have no fear of being censored, fired, attacked or whatever. True is true and i am comfortable with saying so and rejecting the crap. It's true, i will say so, and i will defend it.

So,don't worry about me, and don't worry that i will increase your misery

Despite my cervical vertebral injuries, and partial numbness of 4 fingers, my right middle finger is very strong and i can think of several congress-people i would be happy to show it to! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 18, 2022, at 19:34, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:
>
> Sorry to hear that they're planning to release emails from David's NIH account.
>
> I first heard from David that they were digging into them a few months ago and went through all my past emails with him. There are some mildly embarrassing ones, but nothing unusual, or particularly pertinent to the COVID origins issue. I'll go back through these and talk with Jeff Sturchio (cc'd). What we normally do when we get wind of an upcoming FoIA release is work on a statement that attempts to take the heat out of the stories that these organizations normally write. We use this if the publicity is particularly bad, but often get them ready only to file them when the story doesn't come to much.
>
> I imagine that the sort of headlines we could expect would be "leading scientists conspire to undermine investigation into lab leak theory via back-channel to Dr. Fauci", or "Fauci advisor actively colluded with leading scientists to undermine lab leak investigations" etc. I remember that there is a bit of flowery language in some of the emails, but again, nothing out of the ordinary for an email back-and-forth.
>
> So far, I don't see a request from NIH for me, but they usually go to Aleksei and he hasn't checked yet.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:30 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; David Morens b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 Peter Daszak < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < j b6 b6
Subject: RE: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

Jerry:

OK – I have involved our legal department too.

Here was their immediate response:

"There are 9 categories of information that are exempt from FOIA requests under federal law. They are listed below, but the only two that could possibly be relevant are if the emails contain information that was protected under a CDA with the government agency, or if the emails disclose any of your personal information, like your personal email or home address.

Here are the exemptions:

The nine exemptions are described below.

Exemption 1: Information that is classified to protect national security.
Exemption 2: Information related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency.
Exemption 3: Information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law.
Exemption 4: Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged.
Exemption 5: Privileged communications within or between agencies, including those protected by the:
1. Deliberative Process Privilege (provided the records were created less than 25 years before the date on which they were requested)

2. Attorney-Work Product Privilege

3. Attorney-Client Privilege
Exemption 6: Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.
Exemption 7: Information compiled for law enforcement purposes that:
o7(A). Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings

o7(B). Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication

o7(C). Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

o7(D). Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source

o7(E). Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001407
MORENS_NIH_007679
REL0000479876

expected to risk circumvention of the law

o7(F). Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
Exemption 8: Information that concerns the supervision of financial institutions.
Exemption 9: Geological information on wells.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 ; David Morens b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6
Subject: RE: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, I got this same email yesterday. I contacted the university legal office and they have requested the material be sent to both them and to me.
We got a lot a better about using private email addresses as time went on but we were not so careful at the beginning and occasionally things got sent from and to David at the NIH address. I looked at my inbox and outbox for saved emails involving David and all that I found still there had used the gmail address.

I'll share what our university legal team has to say when we know what we are dealing with. It would no doubt help to figure out the best response if we were all to do that and have a consistent narrative story.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:05 PM
To: David Morens (d b6 < b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6
Subject: FW: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

David:

Just got this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Citarella, Kara (NIH/NHLBI) [C] b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Mr. Roberts,

NIAID/NHLBI is working on a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request that includes emails between David Morens at NIH and yourself. We would like to send the documents over for pre-disclosure notification (PDN) and review. Please advise if we should send the letter and records to your legal counsel's office, or anyone else besides yourself.

Thank you.

Kara Citarella
Policy/FOIA Analyst
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch/FOIA Service Center
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH
GAP Solutions, Inc.
b6

Date: Mon, 1 Aug 2022 3:19:01 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 1 Aug 2022 3:15:13 PM -0400
Subject: Washington Examiner piece on Rand Paul's GoF hearing
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

The Washington Examiner is a pretty hard right-wing journal. Here's their story on the hearing on Wednesday, based on a press release from Rand Paul's office. Note that "Rand Paul will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19"….I thought that was the job of scientific research?

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/rand- paul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research?fbclid=IwAR3V- HXpVFZQ8M5Y73_kEQ9ful2gilqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA

I agree with your point Rich – someone from the scientific community should be pushing back against all this - hearings about scientific research of any type should include people who actually have done that research, or can point to its proposed or actual value.

When I gave my keynote last week in front of a room of virologists, I pointed out to them that it's no good watching EcoHealth be attacked in the press about gain-of-function, and thinking 'glad that's not us' – you guys in the room are the ones actually doing viral research and they're coming for your funding next!

All this, of course, is done to undermine Fauci, undermine Biden, and try to win funding and votes – none of it is actually done to get to the bottom of COVID-19 origins, or protect people in any way…

OPINION

Rand Paul to lead first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research

by Christopher Tremoglie, Commentary Fellow

| July 29, 2022 04:35 PM

On Aug. 3, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19. Paul, ranking member of the subcommittee on emerging threats and spending oversight, will lead the first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. This is an important matter that many Democratic politicians have largely ignored given the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul's office announced the hearing in a press release earlier this week.

"Gain-of-function research has historically been supported by tax dollars both domestically and internationally; as such, this hearing lies at the intersection of the subcommittee's two primary jurisdictional responsibilities — monitoring emerging threats and conducting oversight of federal spending," the press release states. "The dangers of this research are so acute that under President Barack Obama, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects until a risk assessment protocol could be developed for them. Gain-of-function research resumed in 2017, after a special committee review process was established to help manage these risks. However, serious questions remain about whether that protocol is sufficient to protect the U.S. and the world from the potential negative consequences of this research. Moreover, the debate over what gain-of-function research is and what it is not, is not settled."

Gain-of-function research has been hotly debated. In previous hearings regarding the pandemic, Paul and Dr.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have had contentious exchanges. In May 2021, the two verbally sparred over whether the National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Paul claimed that "superviruses" were created. Fauci denied this and said such reports were "entirely and completely incorrect."
"The purpose of this hearing is to examine issues involving gain-of-function research, which attempts to enhance the severity and transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans or other mammals. Witnesses include Dr. Richard H. Ebright, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Dr. Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Dr. Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Arts & Sciences of MIT Media Lab," the press release says.
Much of the skepticism regarding NIH's role in the COVID-19 pandemic stems from a letter sent to Congress by Lawrence A. Tabak, a top NIH official. Tabak claimed that Fauci authorized NIH to fund EcoHealth Alliance to research the relationship between humans and bat-specific pathogens. In the letter, Tabak claimed that NIH failed to report results that revealed an increase in viral growth.
"These medical and scientific professionals will inform and educate lawmakers and the public on the myriad issues involving the risky, virus-enhancing research that is funded by taxpayer money," the press release says. If proven true, it would be a black eye for NIH, Fauci, and federal government stewardship of taxpayer money.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <b6>; 'David Morens' <b6>; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6
'Roberts, Rich' b6; Jeff Sturchio <b6>
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <b6>
Subject: update...

….and I apologize David – I've just noticed that the last email chain also had your (!) NIH email address on it…

I'm catching up on emails this week, having been out of the office, giving a keynote at a conference in Colorado – first in-person conference for me since March 2020.

It's been great to see the two papers published in *Science*, which by the way use data that the 'Joint WHO-China Study of the Animal Origins of COVID-19' first published in our report in March 2021. Despite the rhetoric since our WHO Wuhan work, these data were new, and were freely proffered by the China team. These data point clearly to the industrial-scale trade in farmed and wild-caught wildlife in China as the origins, something which China first publicly stated in Jan 2020, then announcing its goal of closing the wildlife farming industry, and the 14 million jobs it involved. The point here is that, while the lab leak accusers

point to China as covering up so they don't get blamed for the pandemic, they had already done the opposite with the wildlife trade.

On other news – we are now trying to stave off efforts to defund us by working with a bi-partisan request from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. We first heard from last Fall, and the letter came from the Democrats, Sen. Ossoff's staff, saying they were a bi-partisan group. However, it's clearly being led by the Republicans (Senator Ron Johnson's staff), and they're pushing us to hand over emails and documents back to 2010 relating to any communications w/ federal agencies on a bunch of COVID and lab leak topics. Right now we're trying to slow down their efforts, and narrow their search, but they're harbingers of what we will likely see in November if the Republicans win the House – a bunch of requests to preserve documents, followed by Subpoenas in January/Feb, unless this topic becomes 'old hat'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:20 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 Keusch, Gerald T' b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; 'Roberts, Rich' b6
Subject: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting- gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

- Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
- Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008545
MORENS_NIH_018568
REL0000479877

inserts in the virus etc.
- Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Oh ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008546
MORENS_NIH_018569
REL0000479877

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/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
b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 wrote:

Peter, I do not have a link. These pdfs came directly from the journal.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 ssistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this

communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:20 PM
To: David Morens <b6
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6; Peter Daszak <b6
Keusch, Gerald T <b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Roberts, Rich <
b6; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E b6
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Do you have the link so i can put it out on social media? I had trouble finding it

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm
David M. Morens. MD
(b) (6)

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens b6 wrote:
probably u have all seen these but just in b6
David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6 <mailto:b6 wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
• b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
• b6 b6 b6
• b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 8:09:43 AM -0400

Subject: Re: RE: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕ Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

From: kuuipo9 [b6]>

To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Alison Andre [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; [b6]

CC: [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; [b6]

Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

David:

Awful. Yet another example where 10,000 politicians at the bottom of the sea would be a good start. They simply have no shame and are likely totally corrupt themselves.

I do believe though that if you stick to the truth you will be OK. Let's hope the general public can see how honest the real government workers are as opposed to the politicians who are supposed to be governing, but who prefer to play political games.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: kuuipo9 [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Alison Andre [b6] eff Sturchio [b6]>; [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Spent about 5 hours with my lawyer today in preparation for my Wednesday testimony. Although he expects I will be skewered with false charges and press releases that will distort the truth, he also is optimistic that what I will say mostly exonerates me, not that the committee will admit that. He says that I should be prepared to be hit with criminal charges and firing and possible jail time for using my Gmail for supposed government business. This is what the committee is pushing for and they are pushing for a Justice Department investigation already.

MORENS_NIH_044706
REL0000479880

Please come visit me in prison and help me find a job when I get out. At least if that happens I will finally have the ability to speak out and write about what has been going in. I won't mince words. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I'll do that – good suggestion Peter
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay b6
> **Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald < b6 Alison Andre < b6 >; David Morens b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Keith Martin b6 Rich Roberts b6
> **Cc:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau b6
> **Subject:** Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
>
> You can write to her and cc me b6

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_NIH_044707
REL0000479880

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | **Donate** to Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald [b6] Alison Andre [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Keith Martin < b6 ; Rich Roberts [b6]
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6]; Aleksei Chmura < b6 Kathy Chase-Gaudreau < [b6]
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

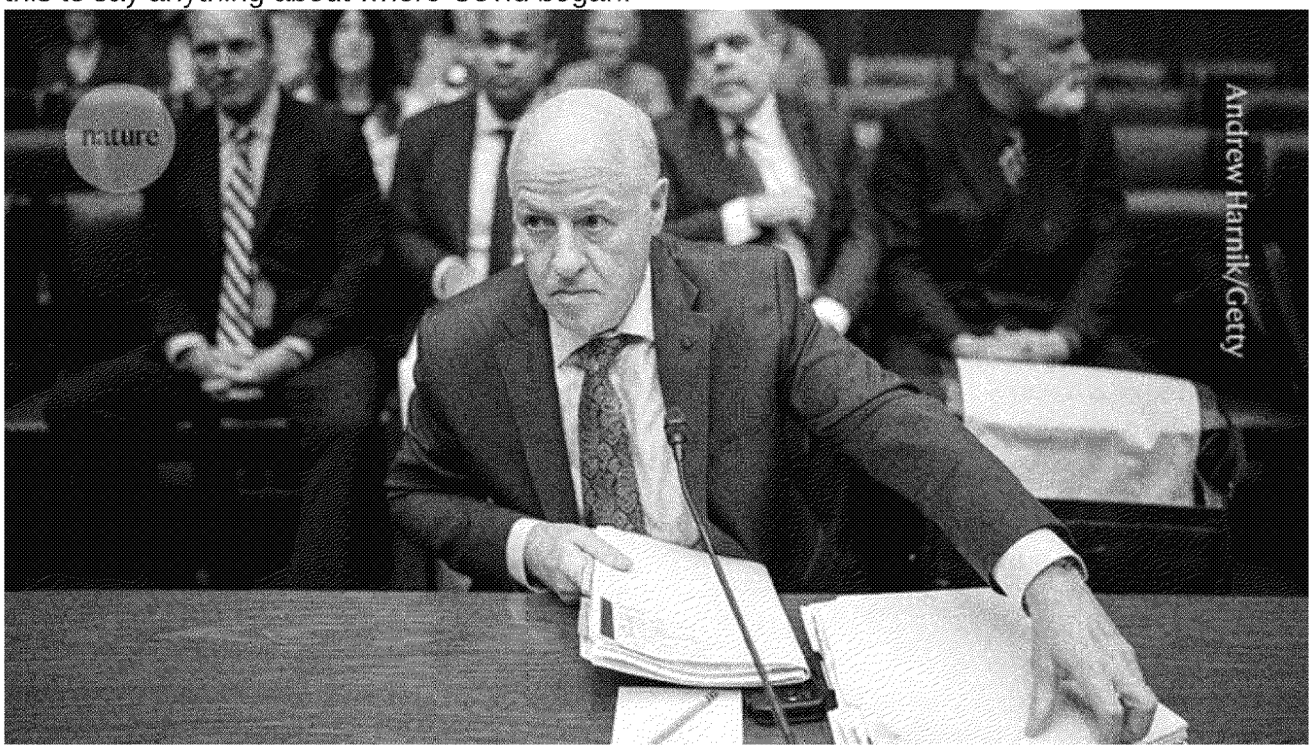
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they

've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).



Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless.
https://nature.com/articles/d41586- 024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.



US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K



Peter Daszak

MORENS_NIH_044709
REL0000479880

@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' b6 ; Alison Andre < b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < b6 'David Morens' < b6 >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' < b6 >; 'Keith Martin' < (b) (6) >; 'Rich Roberts'
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' b6
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_NIH_044710
REL0000479880

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald <b6
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre b6 g >; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6 David Morens <
b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Keith Martin b6 >; Rich Roberts <
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Dougla b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Peter Daszak b6 >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau b6
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 b6
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Keusch, Gerald b6 David Morens b6
Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Keith Martin b6 >; Rich Roberts
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas b6 >; Aleksei Chmu b6
Peter Daszak b6 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

b6 (direct)

1.212.380.4465 (fax)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

MORENS_NIH_044712
REL000479880

Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 8:22:43 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 8:23:59 PM -0500
Subject: Briefing wider group at NIAID on March 16th re. WHO mission
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Keusch, Gerald T b6

By the way – I offered to give a talk on the weekly SARS-CoV-2 investigators meetings that Rebecca Lampley organizes. I'm scheduled for March 16th (I think they're at 9am-10am) and by that time the WHO report (and underlying data) will either be out or close to public, so I'll be able to show slides with images and data (including pics of inside the Huanan market etc.). Feel free to come along and bring your other colleagues from NIAID. Rebecca will have the link for the zoom.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Re: Recommend AVOID - re question from undark magazine

Amen, good advice. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:06, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Careful – I would not speak to this person. I also was contacted with a long list of questions and Robert Kessler did some digging – Undark is an MIT publication and he's drafting a piece primarily about Alina Chan, who's a postdoc or junior faculty with Broad institute who now calls herself a 'scientist-turned-detective' and has been promoting the Mojiang miners-RaTG13-Wuhan lab conspiracy for many months. Judging from his questions, his angle is to paint the internet 'researchers' including Chan as innocently trying to find the truth and being shut down by powerful scientists (me, you

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012515
MORENS_NIH_023894
REL0000479887

and our colleagues on the Lancet piece), thus not giving a fair hearing to the lab hypothesis.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:52 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6
Subject: FYI: question from undark magazine

Interesting. I'm going to punt for a couple of days.

From: Charles Schmidt b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Subject: question from undark magazine

Dr. Keusch,

I'm writing a story for Undark, an editorially independent publication of the Knight Science Journalism Program at MIT.

My story is about why the debate over whether SARS-CoV-2 came from a lab got so heated. My story is not making a case for lab leak vs natural origins, I'm only writing about the way scientists interacted on the matter.

You're an author on a statement that came out in the Lancet last March claiming that anything other than natural origins for the virus is a "conspiracy theory."

There were many authors on that letter, I want to know why the authors chose this particular phrase (conspiracy theory). Would you be able to to tell me?

Also, a number of accomplished scientists, including David Relman from Stanford, have said the lab-leak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012516
MORENS_NIH_023895
REL0000479887

hypothesis never got a fair and dispassionate hearing. Do you agree?

Thanks

Charlie Schmidt

b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012517
MORENS_NIH_023896
REL0000479887

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:07 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:25 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Date: Wed, May 3, 2023 at 5:59 PM
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
To: Hall, Mary Ann b6 >, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >

I would certainly make the time for a Zoom call. I don't think I will be able to join in person.

Jerry

From: Hall, Mary Ann b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009804
MORENS_NIH_020314
REL0000479888

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: b6 | M: b6
b6 |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb0dd4b36cbad4a27c79008db8a10ae70%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=ACiTwDvsOoQWEHh1fuPJbxLXBmy6YWC%2BLi4P9UfeHYk%3D &reserved=0

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Rich Roberts b6 >; Hall, Mary Ann b6 >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

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 11:28:21 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:27:25 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >;
CC: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura >;

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

> On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:
>
> Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 wrote:
> >
> > It's just
> > b6

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > 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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001234
MORENS_NIH_007300
REL0000479892

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Doug b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001235
MORENS_NIH_007301
REL0000479892

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak <b6 wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak < b6 ; David Morens < b6 ; Rich Roberts b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> 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 <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 g >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; David Morens <b6>
Rich Roberts <b6> Aleksei Chmura <b6>
>
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:52 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Angela Rasmussen says it all
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 8:40 AM
Subject: Angela Rasmussen says it all
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >, Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >, Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >

b6 &t=989SMPW7EIz9fqFWQTrG- g

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 2:31 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

Peter Hotez just posted this article from The Hill.

Finally, a response from one Academic Society – Georges Benjamin from APHA, but again, it's not strong enough, not loud enough, and not

enough people are listening I suspect. As Peter pointed out – where are the societies and the academies?

https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3571232- gop-plots-fauci-probe-after-midterms/

HEALTHCARE

GOP plots Fauci probe after midterms

BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL - 07/25/22 5:25 AM ET

SHARETWEET

Congressional Republicans are eagerly floating investigations into Anthony Fauci and the Biden administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic if they win back control of the House or Senate in the midterm elections.

"One way or another, if we are in the majority, we will subpoena his records and he will testify in the Senate under oath," said Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who is in line to become the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee if Republicans win the majority with the panel's current ranking member, Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), retiring.

Republicans have not been shy about launching probes into the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic, focusing on the origins of the virus and whether the federal government — and by extension, Fauci — helped fund controversial research that might have played a role in its creation.

While Republicans have been in the minority, those investigations have not gained much momentum. But with the majority, the GOP would have the authority to lob subpoenas at the administration to force it to hand over documents.

"If we win in November, if I'm chairman of a committee, if I have subpoena power, we'll go after every one of [Fauci's] records," Paul said earlier this year.

Public health experts said a hard look needs to be taken at the totality of the U.S. response to the pandemic across both the Trump and Biden administrations, but without getting into partisan finger-pointing.

"If you want to have a hearing, you need it to be a credible one. And that has to have a purpose. Other than going out to an 81 year old man," said Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Benjamin has been among the health advocates pushing for an independent commission modeled on the 9/11 Commission to be formed to examine the pandemic response.

"It should be designed to actually get to the right answers. Until they do that, you know, they're going to continue to politicize it," Benjamin said.

Fauci is a career government official who has become a political lightning rod and a villain in the eyes of many on the right. Conservative media has painted him as a scapegoat for many of the nation's missteps over the pandemic.

Paul, a libertarian ophthalmologist, has repeatedly antagonized the nation's top infectious diseases doctor over the benefits of masks, vaccinations and the origins of COVID-19.

In March, Paul tried to attach to the pandemic relief bill a proposal eliminating Fauci's job and dividing it into three positions.

In the House, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who is in line to chair the House Judiciary Committee if Republicans win the majority, told The Hill that he sees no limits to what he wants to investigate about Fauci and the pandemic.

Like Paul, Jordan has pressed Fauci to answer questions about whether his agency, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, funded "gain of function" research in China.

Jordan and Paul have long pushed the idea that COVID-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, either because of an accident or because it was deliberately released, and that U.S.-funded research helped supercharge it into a much more dangerous and deadly version of the coronavirus.

Speaking to right-wing news outlet Just The News earlier this year, Jordan said he envisions that the investigation would aim to untangle "all the lies [and] the misinformation, the disinformation" allegedly spread by Fauci.

"That is because they knew from the get-go [coronavirus] came from the lab, likely came from a lab, gain-of-function likely done, and our tax dollars were used," Jordan said.

The U.S. intelligence community has ruled out the possibility that COVID-19 was a bioweapon developed by China, but beyond that the origins of the virus are unclear.

Some scientists have said the idea that it escaped from a lab needs further investigation but acknowledge that won't happen without China's help. Many others think that it spilled into the human population from animals sold in a Wuhan market.

Still, there is little evidence to suggest it was created in a lab or with funding help from the National Institutes of Health or Fauci.

Moody's: Schumer-Manchin deal will 'nudge' economy, inflation 'in the right direction'Hawley vows to vote 'no' on adding Sweden and Finland to NATO

Rupali Limaye, a health communication scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said a nakedly partisan investigation of Fauci would do even more damage to the fraying public trust in public health officials.

"I do think that public officials should be held responsible, you should be able to question and think critically about the recommendations that they have made, but it's also a slippery slope," Limaye said.

"Going down this slippery slope of continuing to have investigation after investigation after investigation is not in the best interest for anyone," Limaye said.

TAGS ANTHONY FAUCI ANTHONY FAUCI COVID-19 COVID-19 PANDEMIC JIM JORDAN JIM JORDAN NIH RAND PAUL RAND PAUL RICHARD BURR

The Hill has removed its comment section, as there are many other forums for readers to participate in the conversation. We invite you to join the discussion on Facebook and Twitter.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004226
MORENS_NIH_011206
REL0000479894

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:22 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6>; 'David Morens' b6>; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6>; 'Roberts, Rich' b6>; 'Jeff Sturchio b6 b6>
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6
Subject: Now Fox News on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

…and here's Fox News…of course:

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/rand- paul-vows-get-answers-covid-19-origins-gain-function-hearing

COVID-19 origins in gain-of-function hearing

Paul argues there is significant evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic originated in a Wuhan, China, lab

By Michael Lee | Fox News

BeyondWords

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., announced the first ever hearing on gain-of-function research, which will be aimed at pinning down the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Rand Paul has led the effort to hold government officials accountable on the status of efforts being made to combat COVID-19, and the origins of this virus that has killed over 6 million people worldwide," a spokesperson for Paul told Fox News Digital. "This has been over a year-long process of getting Congressional Democrats to finally agree to a hearing, which will also be the first Congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. Dr. Paul looks forward to working with Subcommittee Chairwoman Hassan and hearing from expert witnesses during this critically important hearing that should've happened long ago."

The hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, comes a week after the Kentucky senator attempted to pass an amendment to the CHIPS-Plus Act that would have banned U.S. funding of gain-of-function research in China, with Democrats objecting to the amendment despite it passing unanimously in an earlier version of the bill last year.

In remarks on the floor of the Senate last week, Paul argued that there was significant evidence that the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic could be traced to a lab in Wuhan, China.

RAND PAUL SENDS MESSAGE TO FAUCI: YOU'LL HAVE TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH IF GOP WINS

Sen. Rand Paul speaks during a COVID-19 federal response hearing on Capitol Hill. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

"Gain-of-function research enhances the severity or transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans," Paul said. "The dangers are so acute that from 2014-2017, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects… the emergence of COVID serves as a reminder that dangerous research conducted in a secretive and totalitarian country is simply too risky to fund."

Paul also sent a letter to the acting director of the National Institutes of Health, Lawrence A. Tabak, last week to demand the agency be more transparent on the origins of COVID-19, arguing that NIH has "repeatedly disregarded its responsibilities" under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Of particular concern is NIH's recent admission in Court that the agency is withholding portions of emails between employees because they 'could be used out of context and serve to amplify the already prevalent misinformation regarding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic,'" Paul said in the letter. "This suggests NIH is censoring the information it releases to the public about the origins of the pandemic."

Paul has had several clashes with public health officials throughout the pandemic, including several confrontations with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who currently serves as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to President Biden.

Dr. Anthony Fauci responds to questions from Sen. Rand Paul at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. (Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images)

Most recently, Paul told Fox News that Fauci would be forced to testify under oath regarding the pandemic if the Republican Party takes control of Congress after the midterm elections.

"If he's in public employment, we will subpoena him," Paul said. "He will have to appear and testify under oath. If Republicans take charge of the House or the Senate or both, he will have to testify under oath because a million Americans died. And we want to know about was there a cover-up in trying to suppress any link to the lab in China?"

Michael Lee is a writer at Fox News. Follow him on Twitter @UAMichaelLee

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:15 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6>; 'David Morens' b6>; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6>; 'Roberts, Rich' b6>; 'Jeff Sturchio b6 b6>
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6
Subject: Washington Examiner piece on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

The Washington Examiner is a pretty hard right-wing journal. Here's their story on the hearing on Wednesday, based on a press release from Rand Paul's office. Note that "Rand Paul will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19"….I thought that was the job of scientific research?

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/rand- paul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research?fbclid=IwAR3V-HXpVFZQ8M5Y73_kEQ9ful2giIqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA

I agree with your point Rich – someone from the scientific community should be pushing back against all this - hearings about scientific research of any type should include people who actually have done that research, or can point to its proposed or actual value.

When I gave my keynote last week in front of a room of virologists, I pointed out to them that it's no good watching EcoHealth be attacked

in the press about gain-of-function, and thinking 'glad that's not us' – you guys in the room are the ones actually doing viral research and they're coming for your funding next!

All this, of course, is done to undermine Fauci, undermine Biden, and try to win funding and votes – none of it is actually done to get to the bottom of COVID-19 origins, or protect people in any way…

OPINION

Rand Paul to lead first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research

by Christopher Tremoglie, Commentary Fellow

| July 29, 2022 04:35 PM

.

On Aug. 3, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19. Paul, ranking member of the subcommittee on emerging threats and spending oversight, will lead the first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. This is an important matter that many Democratic politicians have largely ignored given the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul's office announced the hearing in a press release earlier this week.

"Gain-of-function research has historically been supported by tax dollars both domestically and internationally; as such, this hearing lies at the intersection of the subcommittee's two primary jurisdictional responsibilities — monitoring emerging threats and conducting oversight of federal spending," the press release states. "The dangers of this research are so acute that under President Barack Obama, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects until a risk assessment protocol could be developed for them. Gain-of-function research resumed in 2017, after a special committee review process was established to help manage these risks. However, serious questions remain about whether that protocol is sufficient to protect the U.S. and the world from the potential negative consequences of this research. Moreover, the debate over what gain-of-function research is and what it is not, is not settled."

Gain-of-function research has been hotly debated. In previous hearings regarding the pandemic, Paul and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have had contentious exchanges. In May 2021, the two verbally sparred over whether the National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Paul claimed that "superviruses" were created. Fauci denied this and said such reports were "entirely and completely incorrect."

"The purpose of this hearing is to examine issues involving gain-of-function research, which attempts to enhance the severity and transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans or other mammals. Witnesses include Dr. Richard H. Ebright, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Dr. Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Dr. Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Arts & Sciences of MIT Media Lab," the press release says.

Much of the skepticism regarding NIH's role in the COVID-19 pandemic stems from a letter sent to Congress by Lawrence A. Tabak, a top NIH official. Tabak claimed that Fauci authorized NIH to fund EcoHealth Alliance to research the relationship between humans and bat-specific pathogens. In the letter, Tabak claimed that NIH failed to report results that revealed an increase in viral growth.

"These medical and scientific professionals will inform and educate lawmakers and the public on the myriad issues involving the risky, virus-enhancing research that is funded by taxpayer money," the press release says.

If proven true, it would be a black eye for NIH, Fauci, and federal government stewardship of taxpayer money.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004232
MORENS_NIH_011212
REL0000479894

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6] [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]
Subject: update...

….and I apologize David – I've just noticed that the last email chain also had your (!) NIH email address on it…

I'm catching up on emails this week, having been out of the office, giving a keynote at a conference in Colorado – first in-person conference for me since March 2020.

It's been great to see the two papers published in Science, which by the way use data that the 'Joint WHO-China Study of the Animal Origins of COVID-19' first published in our report in March 2021. Despite the rhetoric since our WHO Wuhan work, these data were new, and were

freely proffered by the China team. These data point clearly to the industrial-scale trade in farmed and wild-caught wildlife in China as the origins, something which China first publicly stated in Jan 2020, then announcing its goal of closing the wildlife farming industry, and the 14 million jobs it involved. The point here is that, while the lab leak accusers point to China as covering up so they don't get blamed for the pandemic, they had already done the opposite with the wildlife trade.

On other news – we are now trying to stave off efforts to defund us by working with a bi-partisan request from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. We first heard from last Fall, and the letter came from the Democrats, Sen. Ossoff's staff, saying they were a bi-partisan group. However, it's clearly being led by the Republicans (Senator Ron Johnson's staff), and they're pushing us to hand over emails and documents back to 2010 relating to any communications w/ federal agencies on a bunch of COVID and lab leak topics. Right now we're trying to slow down their efforts, and narrow their search, but they're harbingers of what we will likely see in November if the Republicans win the House – a bunch of requests to preserve documents, followed by Subpoenas in January/Feb, unless this topic becomes 'old hat'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004234
MORENS_NIH_011214
REL0000479894

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:20 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 >; 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' b6 gov >
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' b6 >
Subject: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting- gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc.
Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004237
MORENS_NIH_011217
REL0000479894

Date: Sat, 25 Mar 2023 3:18:18 PM -0400

Sent: Sat, 25 Mar 2023 3:18:12 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]>

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;

CC: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Jerry:

I would be happy to try and mobilize the NLs, but it is not clear to me what the ask would be and how we might actually help.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

EXTERNAL SENDER

The problem apparently is influenced by several things: a) some scientifically strong outside candidates have either refused to consider or dropped out given the politics, among other issues, b) the lead inside candidate is apparently a disruptive personality, c) the administration has a lot of other things to deal with that apparently override (I can't use that other word) in importance this appointment.

But this is madness and so obviously politically driven. Had there been a strong NIH leader in place in April 2020 NIH would not have caved in and cancelled Peter's grant. That's when the slope became slippery.

Rich, you may be on this already but it seems to me this is a critical time for the Nobel laureates to speak up, and echo Tony's characterization of Rant Paul as knowing nothing about public health, and my favorite phrase that he is an ophthalmologist who cannot see the difference between evidence-based decisions and ideologically driven "don't bother me with information, my decision stands".

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <J_Sturchio@msn.com>

Cc: David Morens <b6> Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Peter Daszak <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

I agree

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Mar 24, 2023, at 8:33 AM, Jeffrey Sturchio <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

This is madness! Yet another reason why the Biden Administration should have appointed a strong new Director of NIH some time ago.

JLS

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Peter Daszak <b6>; peter hotez <b6>; Roberts, Rich b6; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Fri, Mar 24, 2023, 09:17 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 wrote:

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" b6
Date: March 23, 2023 at 20:33:18 EDT
Subject: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID



Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images
● Henry Rodgers Chief National Correspondent
March 23, 2023 9:44 AM ET
Republican Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Rep. Chip Roy will introduce legislation Thursday that would eliminate the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
The Daily Caller first obtained a copy of the bill, which is titled the NIH Reform Act. The bill would specifically replace the NIAID with three separate national research institutes that would be led by directors subject to Senate confirmation and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.
The three new institutes would be the National Institute of Allergic Diseases, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Immunologic Diseases. The directors of each new institute would be appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation, and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.
"We've learned a lot over the past few years, but one lesson in particular is that no one person should be deemed 'dictator-in-chief.' No one person should have unilateral authority to make decisions for millions of Americans," Paul told the Daily Caller before introducing the legislation. **(RELATED: Rand Paul Introduces Legislation To Repeal Federal Mask Mandate For Public Transportation)**
"To ensure that ineffective, unscientific lockdowns and mandates are never foisted on the American people ever again, I've introduced this bill to eliminate Dr. Anthony Fauci's previous position as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and divide the role into three separate new institutes. This will create accountability and oversight into a taxpayer funded position that has largely abused its power and has been responsible for many failures and misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.
READ THE LEGISLATION HERE:

(DAILY CALLER OBTAINED) — ... by Henry Rodgers

"From the earliest days of the pandemic, unaccountable public health bureaucracies proved themselves far more adept at ruining lives than saving them. Never again should a single individual, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, wield unchecked power and influence over the lives of the American people. Breaking up Dr. Fauci's taxpayer funded bully pulpit into three separate agencies — and requiring Senate confirmation for all their future directors — is one of many actions necessary to allow the American people to hold public health agencies accountable," Roy, who introduced an identical House version of the bill, said in a statement. **(RELATED: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul Demands NIH Preserve All Documents, Communications In Fauci's Possession)**
The legislation is currently cosponsored by Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Indiana Sen. Mike Braun and Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of

MORENS_NIH_013051
REL0000479895

U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_NIH_013052
REL0000479895

Date: Fri, 19 Apr 2024 8:18:50 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 19 Apr 2024 8:18:17 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Today's news...
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted]
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]
CC: kuuipo9 [redacted] Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] Jeff Sturchio [redacted] >; Roberts, Rich [redacted] [redacted] Aleksei Chmura [redacted] >; John Feigelson [redacted]
Attachments: image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

So glad it worked out with Michael Mann! Our book is coming along nicely along with calling out the evil of the House Subcommittee hearings

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [redacted]
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[redacted] | Phone [redacted] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
[redacted]
iPhone

On Apr 19, 2024, at 7:13 PM, Peter Daszak [redacted] > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000087
MORENS_NIH_000115
REL0000479905

<image005.png>
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

@ScienceMagazine AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: b6 >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' <
b6 Roberts, Rich' b6 Hotez, Peter Jay' <b6
b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; John Feigelson b6 >
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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000089
MORENS_NIH_000117
REL0000479905

they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…

Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214

Washington Examiner BS article here:
https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth- alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/

Full text of tweet:

Post

See new posts

Conversation

Pinned

<image006.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

<image005.png>
BREAKING
<image005.png>

@EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.
<image007.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000090
MORENS_NIH_000118
REL0000479905

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: kuuipo9 b6
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeff Sturchio < b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6;
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
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.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
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 b6 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 b6
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000093
MORENS_NIH_000121
REL0000479905

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6]
'Alison Andre [b6] g)' [b6] >
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik [b6]
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000094
MORENS_NIH_000122
REL0000479905

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 [redacted] b6 > 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000095
MORENS_NIH_000123
REL0000479905

further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000097
MORENS_NIH_000125
REL0000479905

Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 9:13:38 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 9:12:11 PM -0400
Subject: Important article in Bloomberg tonight
From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: peter hotez [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Danielle Anderson is the first and only Westerner (she's Australian) to spend time in the Wuhan BSL4 and other labs – she spent months there during 2019. She's speaking out for the first time here in Bloomberg and reports that there was no evidence of sick people, no evidence of unusual activity, no gain of function work on bat coronaviruses etc.
https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021- 06-27/did-covid-come-from-a-lab-scientist-at-wuhan-institute-speaks-out

Dani is one of the Lancet COVID Commission taskforce members that Jeff Sachs is currently trying to push out. Not sure how it will turn out, but it's really good to see her speaking out, and I hope truth will actually help in this upside down world…

Here's the transcript:

The Last–And Only–Foreign Scientist in the Wuhan Lab Speaks Out

Virologist Danielle Anderson paints a very different picture of the Wuhan Institute.

By

Michelle Fay Cortez

June 27, 2021, 5:00 PM EDT

Danielle Anderson was working in what has become the world's most notorious laboratory just weeks before the first known cases of Covid-19 emerged in central China. Yet, the Australian virologist still wonders what she missed.

An expert in bat-borne viruses, Anderson is the only foreign scientist to have undertaken research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology 's BSL-4 lab, the first in mainland China equipped to handle the planet's deadliest pathogens. Her most recent stint ended in November 2019, giving Anderson an insider's

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020702
MORENS_NIH_041416
REL0000479907

perspective on a place that's become a flashpoint in the search for what caused the worst pandemic in a century.

The emergence of the coronavirus in the same city where institute scientists, clad head-to-toe in protective gear, study that exact family of viruses has stoked speculation that it might have leaked from the lab, possibly via an infected staffer or a contaminated object. China's lack of transparency since the earliest days of the outbreak fueled those suspicions, which have been seized on by the U.S. That's turned the quest to uncover the origins of the virus, critical for preventing future pandemics, into a geopolitical minefield.

The work of the lab and the director of its emerging infectious diseases section—Shi Zhengli, a long-time colleague of Anderson's dubbed 'Batwoman' for her work hunting viruses in caves—is now shrouded in controversy. The U.S. has questioned the lab's safety and alleged its scientists were engaged in contentious gain of function research that manipulated viruses in a manner that could have made them more dangerous.

It's a stark contrast to the place Anderson described in an interview with Bloomberg News, the first in which she's shared details about working at the lab.

Half-truths and distorted information have obscured an accurate accounting of the lab's functions and activities, which were more routine than how they've been portrayed in the media, she said.

"It's not that it was boring, but it was a regular lab that worked in the same way as any other high-containment lab," Anderson said. "What people are saying is just not how it is."

Now at Melbourne's Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Anderson began collaborating with Wuhan researchers in 2016, when she was scientific director of the biosafety lab at Singapore's Duke-NUS Medical School. Her research—which focuses on why lethal viruses like Ebola and Nipah cause no disease in the bats in which they perpetually circulate—complemented studies underway at the Chinese institute, which offered funding to encourage international collaboration.

A rising star in the virology community, Anderson, 42, says her work on Ebola in Wuhan was the realization of a life-long career goal. Her favorite movie is "Outbreak," the 1995 film in which disease experts respond to a dangerous new virus—a job Anderson said she wanted to do. For her, that meant working on Ebola in a high-containment laboratory.

Anderson's career has taken her all over the world. After obtaining an undergraduate degree from Deakin University in Geelong, Australia, she worked as a lab technician at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, then returned to Australia to complete a PhD under the supervision of eminent virologists John Mackenzie and Linfa Wang. She did post-doctoral work in Montreal, before moving to Singapore and working again with Wang, who described Anderson as "very committed and dedicated," and similar in personality to Shi.

"They're both very blunt with such high moral standards," Wang said by phone from Singapore, where he's the director of the emerging infectious diseases program at the Duke-NUS Medical School. "I'm very proud of what Danielle's been able to do."

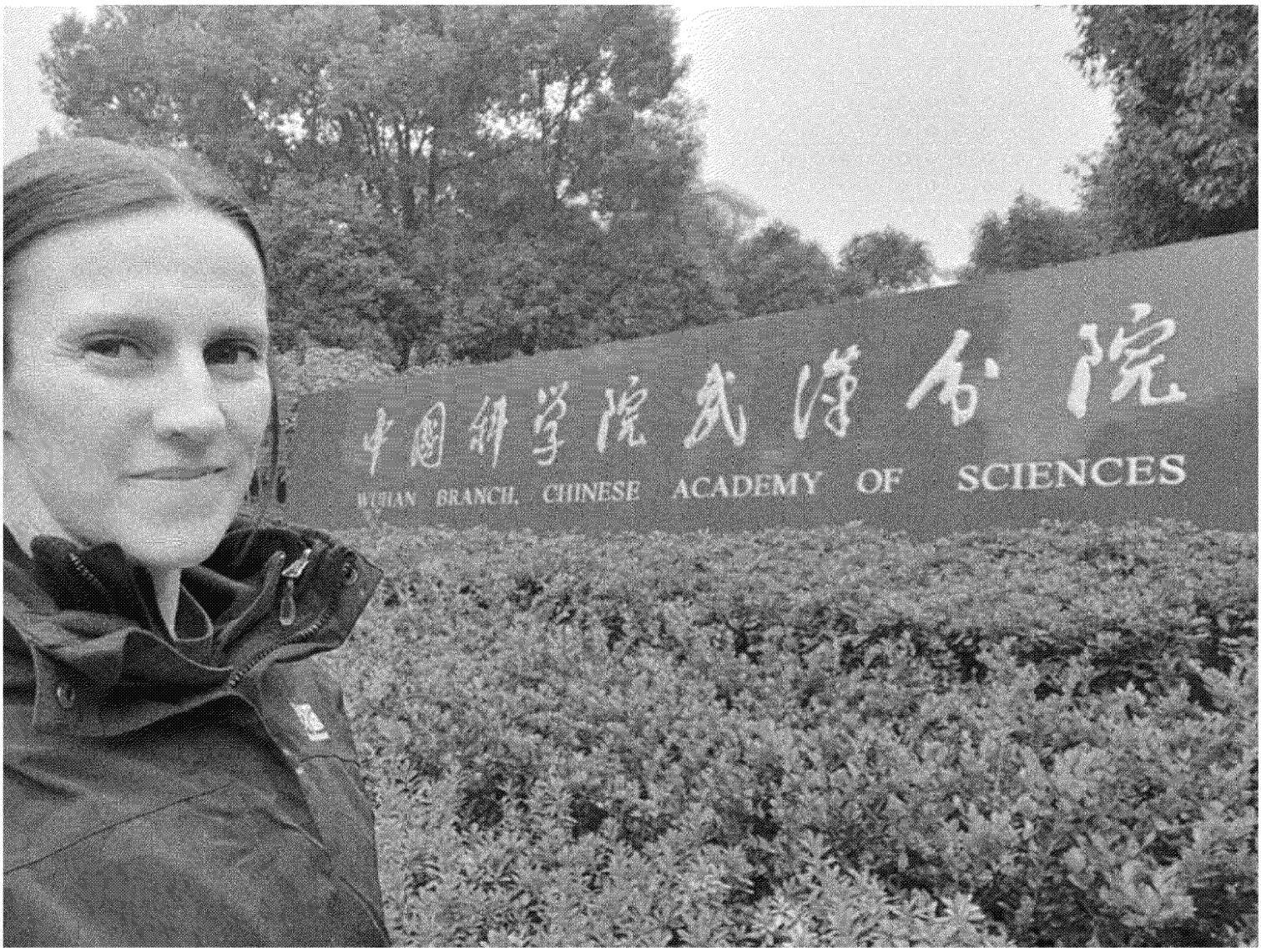
On the Ground

Anderson was on the ground in Wuhan when experts believe the virus, now known as SARS-CoV-2, was beginning to spread. Daily visits for a period in late 2019 put her in close proximity to many others

working at the 65-year-old research center. She was part of a group that gathered each morning at the Chinese Academy of Sciences to catch a bus that shuttled them to the institute about 20 miles away.

As the sole foreigner, Anderson stood out, and she said the other researchers there looked out for her.

“We went to dinners together, lunches, we saw each other outside of the lab,” she said.



Anderson in Wuhan in 2019.

Source: Danielle Anderson

From her first visit before it formally opened in 2018, Anderson was impressed with the institute’s maximum biocontainment lab. The concrete, bunker-style building has the highest biosafety designation, and requires air, water and waste to be filtered and sterilized before it leaves the facility. There were strict protocols and requirements aimed at containing the pathogens being studied, Anderson said, and researchers underwent 45 hours of training to be certified to work independently in the lab.

The induction process required scientists to demonstrate their knowledge of containment procedures and their competency in wearing air-pressured suits. “It’s very, very extensive,” Anderson said.

Entering and exiting the facility was a carefully choreographed endeavor, she said. Departures were made especially intricate by a requirement to take both a chemical shower and a personal shower—the timings of which were precisely planned.

Special Disinfectants

These rules are mandatory across BSL-4 labs, though Anderson noted differences compared with similar facilities in Europe, Singapore and Australia in which she's worked. The Wuhan lab uses a bespoke method to make and monitor its disinfectants daily, a system Anderson was inspired to introduce in her own lab. She was connected via a headset to colleagues in the lab's command center to enable constant communication and safety vigilance—steps designed to ensure nothing went awry.

However, the Trump administration's focus in 2020 on the idea the virus escaped from the Wuhan facility suggested that something went seriously wrong at the institute, the only one to specialize in virology, viral pathology and virus technology of the some 20 biological and biomedical research institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Virologists and infectious disease experts initially dismissed the theory, noting that viruses jump from animals to humans with regularity. There was no clear evidence from within SARS-CoV-2's genome that it had been artificially manipulated, or that the lab harbored progenitor strains of the pandemic virus. Political observers suggested the allegations had a strategic basis and were designed to put pressure on Beijing.

And yet, China's actions raised questions. The government refused to allow international scientists into Wuhan in early 2020 when the outbreak was mushrooming, including experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who were already in the region.

Beijing stonewalled on allowing World Health Organization experts into Wuhan for more than a year, and then provided only limited access. The WHO team's final report, written with and vetted by Chinese researchers, played down the possibility of a lab leak. Instead, it said the virus probably spread via a bat through another animal, and gave some credence to a favored Chinese theory that it could have been transferred via frozen food.

Never Sick

China's obfuscation led outside researchers to reconsider their stance. Last month, 18 scientists writing in the journal Science called for an investigation into Covid-19's origins that would give balanced consideration to the possibility of a lab accident. Even the director-general of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said the lab theory hadn't been studied extensively enough.

But it's U.S. President Joe Biden's consideration of the idea—previously dismissed by many as a Trumpist conspiracy theory—that has given it newfound legitimacy. Biden called on America's intelligence agencies last month to redouble their efforts in rooting out the genesis of Covid-19 after an earlier report, disclosed by the Wall Street Journal, claimed three researchers from the lab were hospitalized with flu-like symptoms in November 2019.

What the World Wants China to Disclose in Wuhan Lab Leak Probe

Anderson said no one she knew at the Wuhan institute was ill toward the end of 2019. Moreover, there is a procedure for reporting symptoms that correspond with the pathogens handled in high-risk containment labs.

"If people were sick, I assume that I would have been sick—and I wasn't," she said. "I was tested for coronavirus in Singapore before I was vaccinated, and had never had it."



World Health Organization experts were provided limited access at the Wuhan Institute of Virology when they visited in February this year.

Photographer: Hector Retamal/AFP/Getty Images

Not only that, many of Anderson's collaborators in Wuhan came to Singapore at the end of December for a gathering on Nipah virus. There was no word of any illness sweeping the laboratory, she said.

"There was no chatter," Anderson said. "Scientists are gossipy and excited. There was nothing strange from my point of view going on at that point that would make you think something is going on here."

The names of the scientists reported to have been hospitalized haven't been disclosed. The Chinese government and Shi Zhengli, the lab's now-famous bat-virus researcher, have repeatedly denied that anyone from the facility contracted Covid-19. Anderson's work at the facility, and her funding, ended after the pandemic emerged and she focused on the novel coronavirus.

The Last–And Only–Foreign Scientist in the Wuhan Lab
The Last–And Only–Foreign Scientist in the Wuhan Lab

WATCH: The Last–And Only–Foreign Scientist in the Wuhan Lab

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020706
MORENS_NIH_041420
REL0000479907

‘I’m Not Naive’

It’s not that it’s impossible the virus spilled from there. Anderson, better than most people, understands how a pathogen can escape from a laboratory. SARS, an earlier coronavirus that emerged in Asia in 2002 and killed more than 700 people, subsequently made its way out of secure facilities a handful of times, she said.

If presented with evidence that such an accident spawned Covid-19, Anderson “could foresee how things could maybe happen,” she said. “I’m not naive enough to say I absolutely write this off.”

And yet, she still believes it most likely came from a natural source. Since it took researchers almost a decade to pin down where in nature the SARS pathogen emerged, Anderson says she’s not surprised they haven’t found the “smoking gun” bat responsible for the latest outbreak yet.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology is large enough that Anderson said she didn’t know what everyone was working on at the end of 2019. She is aware of published research from the lab that involved testing viral components for their propensity to infect human cells. Anderson is convinced no virus was made intentionally to infect people and deliberately released—one of the more disturbing theories to have emerged about the pandemic’s origins.

Gain of Function

Anderson did concede that it would be theoretically possible for a scientist in the lab to be working on a gain of function technique to unknowingly infect themselves and to then unintentionally infect others in the community. But there’s no evidence that occurred and Anderson rated its likelihood as exceedingly slim.

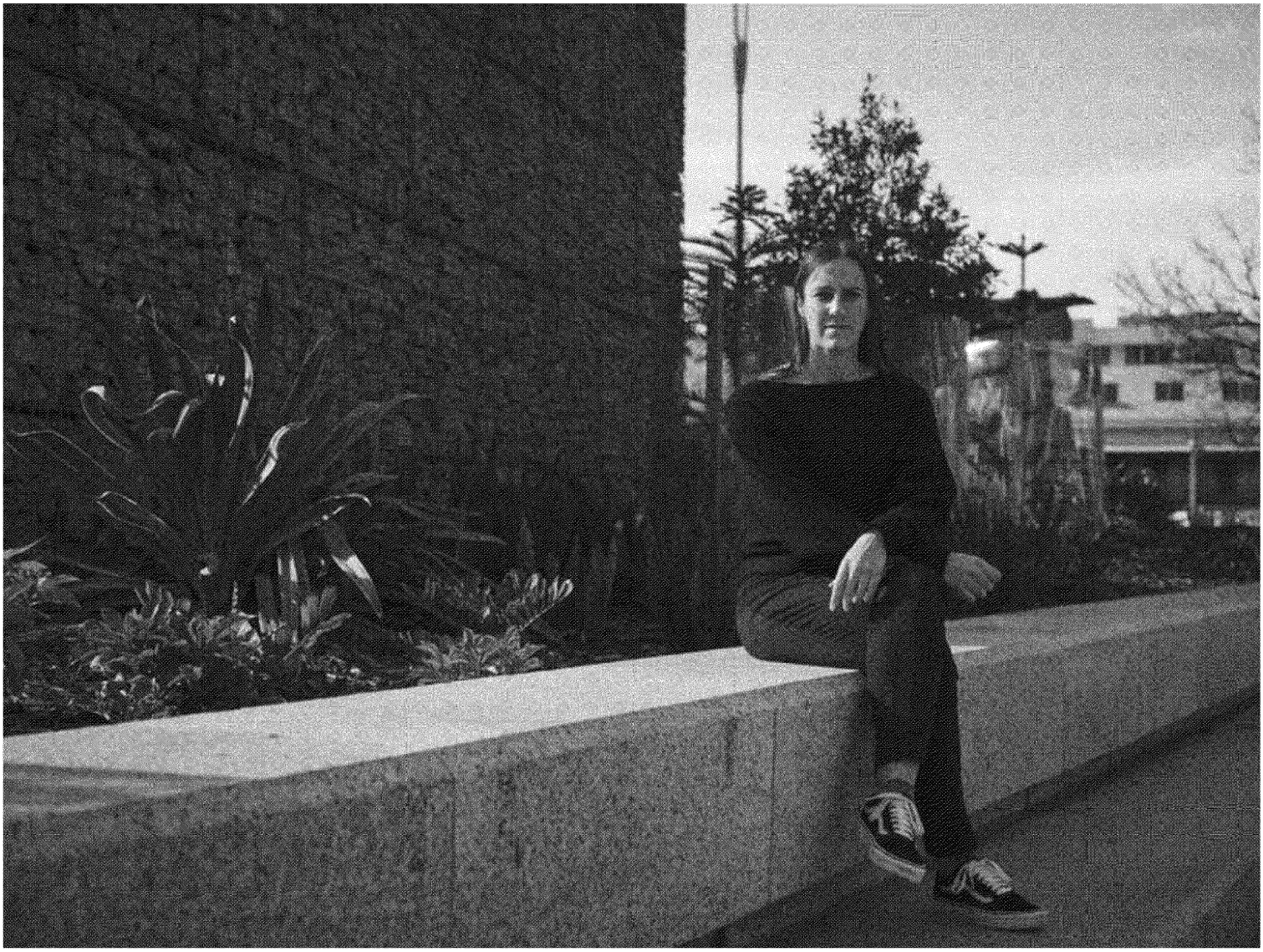
Getting authorization to create a virus in this way typically requires many layers of approval, and there are scientific best practices that put strict limits on this kind of work. For example, a moratorium was placed on research that could be done on the 1918 Spanish Flu virus after scientists isolated it decades later.

Even if such a gain of function effort got clearance, it’s hard to achieve, Anderson said. The technique is called reverse genetics.

“It’s exceedingly difficult to actually make it work when you want it to work,” she said.

Anderson’s lab in Singapore was one of the first to isolate SARS-CoV-2 from a Covid patient outside China and then to grow the virus. It was complicated and challenging, even for a team used to working with coronaviruses that knew its biological characteristics, including which protein receptor it targets. These key facets wouldn’t be known by anyone trying to craft a new virus, she said. Even then, the material that researchers study—the virus’s basic building blocks and genetic fingerprint—aren’t initially infectious, so they would need to culture significant amounts to infect people.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020707
MORENS_NIH_041421
REL0000479907



Anderson is convinced no virus was made intentionally to infect people and deliberately released—one of the more disturbing theories to have emerged.

Photographer: James Bugg/Bloomberg

Despite this, Anderson does think an investigation is needed to nail down the virus's origin once and for all. She's dumbfounded by the portrayal of the lab by some media outside China, and the toxic attacks on scientists that have ensued.

One of a dozen experts appointed to an international taskforce in November to study the origins of the virus, Anderson hasn't sought public attention, especially since being targeted by U.S. extremists in early 2020 after she exposed false information about the pandemic posted online. The vitriol that ensued prompted her to file a police report. The threats of violence many coronavirus scientists have experienced over the past 18 months have made them hesitant to speak out because of the risk that their words will be misconstrued.

The elements known to trigger infectious outbreaks—the mixing of humans and animals, especially wildlife—were present in Wuhan, creating an environment conducive for the spillover of a new zoonotic disease. In that respect, the emergence of Covid-19 follows a familiar pattern. What's shocking to Anderson is the way it unfurled into a global contagion.

"The pandemic is something no one could have imagined on this scale," she said. Researchers must

study Covid's calamitous path to determine what went wrong and how to stop the spread of future pathogens with pandemic potential.

“The virus was in the right place at the right time and everything lined up to cause this disaster.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 4:19 PM
To: David Morens b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 g >
Cc: peter hotez b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: another article

Hi:

Did you all see this already?

https://www.printfriendly.com/p/g/s6wDf9

I know Steven Salzberg extremely well, but didn’t find this posting helpful. Rather it seems to me misleading.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020709
MORENS_NIH_041423
REL0000479907

USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 9:07:41 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 9:07:39 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Beginnings of a National Covid Commission with David Relman and Marc Lipsitch involved
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak <[b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler <[b6];

At least we know some of the more objective people named in this, who will be sensitive to the GoF'ers pushing an in appropriate agenda – should they get there. I think NAM must put its feet forward and will tell Victor Dzau that.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:48 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>
Subject: Beginnings of a National Covid Commission with David Relman and Marc Lipsitch involved

As I suspected – here's a group positioning themselves to try to set up a National Covid Commission, including questions on the origins of the disease.

No surprise to see David Relman and Marc Lipsitch involved.

https://millercenter.org/covidcpg

I don't know why this in particular would become the US Govt's Covid Commission, but they're pitching is as akin to the 9/11 inquiry and even have one of the folks involved who was part of that.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sat, 23 Oct 2021 11:11:01 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 23 Oct 2021 11:10:53 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert Kessler [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6] Matthew R.Torsiello [b6] >;

I'm working on a draft letter to Michael lauer ccd to Lawrence Tabak that first responds to the allegations that we failed to comply with reporting requirements. It's carefully worded but will clearly and directly refute the accusations by showing 1) we reported on time, & 2) the exptl details have been misinterpreted. It will put the ball back into NIH's court by pointing out that, at no point, we're we informed that this work needed secondary review or clarification.

I'll include some new data to show willing but will point out that we are not funded, have been told not to continue work with WIV, & therefore 5 days is insufficient to do a full inventory.

I'll make sure you all get a chance to review this - from NIH compliance, virology, PR & legal points of view.

Appreciate your help during the last two days.

Jerry - I'll send you a rough draft first so you can be fully informed for your letter/email to Tabak telling him to stop harassing us for his own political convenience. You could also let him know that, had he bothered to contact us before responding to congress, he might not have made a mistake in the fact that this expt was already reported to NIH in 2018!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On Oct 23, 2021, at 7:43 AM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:
>
> Great news! This what i suspected and hoped would be true. I still think that tactfully pushing back at nih being willful participants in your harassment, privately or otherwise, should be considered. NIH is

supposed to be YOUR ally, not the ally of shameless witch hunters. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 23, 2021, at 00:56, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Just wanted to give you some very good news from China just now.

We've checked with Wuhan and they only did the one experiment on humanized mice. It was done during year 4 of our grant and we reported initial results from this as soon as we received them back in 2019. They didn't do viral titers, just genome copies, and we reported lung tissue data and weight loss data. The figure in the year 5 report (filed in 2021 due to grant termination etc) is from the same experiment – it's simply the follow-up histopath and survival data from that same group of mice – all done under BSL3, and all permitted by NIH. I suspected as much today because the pattern is the same for all outcomes: Genome copies per gram in lung and brain, weight loss and survival all increase more rapidly in the chimera SHC014, but level off to insignificant differences by the end of the experiment.

This is good news because it means NIH's assumption that we failed to comply with timely reporting is dead wrong, and we can push back directly to Michael Lauer in our letter about both the timing of our reporting, and about the substance of it on that issue of titers vs. genome copies, and the fact that all variables had equalized by Day 6-8 of the expt.

Breathing a slight sigh of relief here. We'll still be pilloried in the press until this new information comes out, but it gives us a chance for strong but diplomatic pushback that can then be shared with reporters at some point next week…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014043
MORENS_NIH_026613
REL0000479921

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:58 AM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'David Morens ([b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6]; 'Robert Kessler ([b6]
Subject: FW: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964

Jerry and David.

Michael Lauer is now demanding more from us, and has focused on another experiment that WIV did with similar chimeras in mice. He wants to know the date so he can try to claim that we didn't act appropriately and report it rapidly enough.

This experiment is Fig 13 in the progress report. It's genome copies per gram again but we do say in the text that the viral titer was increased. I'll get confirmation about this from Zhengli.

The interim progress report was submitted 2 years late. We started uploading it in July 2019 (on time), but never submitted it because our grant was renewed and there was no way to submit a normal annual report at that point – the system didn't allow it and we didn't realize what we were supposed to do. No one at NIH asked for this report and the fact that the new award was made suggested to us that all was well. We were in constant discussion with NIH staff at the time setting up our new grant details, but again no one clarified that they needed anything more from us. The only notice we got to submit this was a few weeks ago from Michael Lauer, at which point we had to work hard with NIH staff to get the system to accept our report.

Can we set up a zoom call this afternoon to look at these figures so you can advise me what I should say to Michael Lauer?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Cc: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964

Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak

Please:

- Confirm receipt of this letter, sent to you on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.
- Provide the dates of work for the experiments described in Figure 13 of the August 3, 2021, RPPR.
- Ensure that all sequences from all the work conducted under this grant are posted immediately to NCBI.

We continue to look forward to receiving all materials by close-of-business Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
One Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
b6
b6

From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <b6>
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 1:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>, Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Cc: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <b6>
Subject: Regarding R01AI110964

Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak

Please see attached.

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: b6
Email: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014045
MORENS_NIH_026615
REL0000479921

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 6:49:36 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 6:49:25 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: David Morens [b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Peter Hotez [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Thsnk you! Yes, i too regularly delete stuff, mostly because i end up being drowned in emails i will never need to refer to again.

But thanks for trying. I am certain there were at least a few such emails. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2023, at 18:45, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Hi David,
I have 49 emails from you in dating from August 23, 2022 to today, exactly one year to the day, and another set of 5 from September 17, 2022 to June 29, 2023. I have gone through them and none of them have the message that I recall seeing multiple times that you cannot discuss government business, have to drop out of the group emails we use to discuss the world and science, but want to hear about new information about the science of emerging infectious diseases.

I'm going to look through my sent email box this evening to see if anything I sent to you and still have a copy of is relevant.

I regularly delete stuff just to keep the file size down and mostly newer exchanges.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Peter Hotez [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

PS, there is some urgency to my responding, with all the info i can dig up. Sorry to ask a favor but this is an important "ask".

I have told nih that i have NOT done what nih defines as "government business" on my gmail, but rather on several occasions, in emails, gmails, and phone calls, to you and others, have requested that personal emails to me or cc'd to me

should be sent to my gmail, and even later, sent to my proton mail.

In my understanding, personal emails that are not business of the US govt, include things like discussing death threats to scientists, investigations of non nih scientists for alleged wrongdoing, discussions about defending scientific integrity, etc

As govt scientists we DO NOT lose first amendment rights, but cannot take public positions on matters of government policy unless we identify ourselves as citizens, ie, not as government employees. Hence we have all been trained to keep personal stuff or emails that reflect opinions which are not USG policies, off of NIH email, and by default onto private mails like gmail

That is what i believe i have done, with the extra caveat that since i was being continually foia'd i also wanted to prevent the personal and private opinions and concerns of my friends, ie, all of you, from showing up in the newspapers, and reduce the chance that your harrassments would be magnified

I hope you will recall and even find emails that are supportive of the fact that i said to all of you that i could not discuss govt business on emails, but please keep me in the loop for my info, and that you should not expect me to respond although i wanted to know what was happening

Stuff like that.

Some of you know that as of yesterday, and thanks to Rich and his daughter and her husband, both attorneys i guess, i now have legal representation. NIH will apparently be happy to throw me under the bus to appease the House Subcommittee, but even at my age i feel i am still highly productive scientifically and have much more to do, including development of covid and influenza vaccines with our molecular pathogenesis lab and with our nih vaccine research center

Thanks for your support, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 23, 2023, at 15:41, David Morens <b6> wrote:
>
> Colleagues, the below letter is related to the nih investigation of me and the definition of "government business" as opposed to personal emails to and from colleagues on gmail that do not do government business such as managing grants, organizing meetings, and thins like that
>
> If you think you might have any emails or even remembrances of such, can you please let me know
>
> For example my emails related to the one which the SSCP has quoting me as referring to the GOF unmentionables
>
> Thank you, david
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
> **Date:** August 23, 2023 at 15:18:16 EDT
> **To:** David Morens <b6>
> **Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010365
MORENS_NIH_020875
REL0000479923

OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
Date: August 23, 2023 at 14:54:04 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
Cc: "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" <b6> "Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" <b6>, "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
Subject: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David,

In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?

> *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.*

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010366
MORENS_NIH_020876
REL0000479923

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service (ret.)
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 ssistant: Sherri DePollar)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E b6 >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < b6 ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci
b. Francis Collins
c. Lawrence Tabek
d. Hugh Auchincloss
e. Cliff Lane
f. David Morens
g. Ping Chen
h. Ian Watson
i. Andrew Pope
j. Victor Dzau
k. Robert Redfield
l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee

m. David Christian Hassell
n. Jeremy Farrar
o. Robert Garry
p. Michael Farzan
q. Edward Holmes
r. W. Ian Lipkin
s. Andrew Rambaut
t. Peter Daszak
u. Aleksei Chmura
v. Kevin Olival
w. Christian Drosten
x. Ron Fouchier
y. Marion Koopmans
z. Michael Worobey
aa. Jonathan Pekar
bb. Florence Debarre
cc. Angela Rasmussen
dd. Ralph Baric
ee. James LeDuc
ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <j[redacted]
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] [redacted]>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember
deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail, once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than

under identifying emails and stuff

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related..

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> wrote:

David,

If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 b6 b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6 Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks Jill,

i have a few questions.... see below

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

wrote:

David,

For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those. Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there maybe emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6 ; Green, Christine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010371
MORENS_NIH_020881
REL0000479923

(NIH/OD) [E] < b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 wrote:
>
> Dr. Morens,
>
> Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
> Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer
> NIAID/NIH/DHHS
> Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> Phone: b6
> b6
> Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010372
MORENS_NIH_020882
REL0000479923

Date: Wed, 1 Sep 2021 6:41:48 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 Sep 2021 6:37:40 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Scientific American
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Justin Ling <justinling@protonmail.com>;
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]

Thanks for the nudge Justin. I'm sorry, but I really think I'm the wrong person to be talking about gain of function work pros and cons given that I'm not a lab virologist and haven't been involved in GoF work really. I know people who would be much better to talk to and who might be willing to talk including Gerry Keusch from the Boston NEIDL lab and BU, and David Morens at NIAID. I've cc'd them here.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Justin Ling <justinling@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:46 AM
To: [b6]
Cc: [b6]
Subject: Re: Interview Request: Scientific American

Hey Peter,

Just following up again to see if you'd be able to chat sometime in the next week or two

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023151
MORENS_NIH_044290
REL0000479924

-------- Original Message --------
On Jul 22, 2021, 11:00 AM, Justin Ling < justinling@protonmail.com > wrote:

Hey Peter, thanks for getting back

I totally get it. I'm happy to talk on background if that's the best way to do it.

Justin Ling
Journalist
(613) 407-2292

------- Original Message -------
On Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 12:40 PM, Peter Daszak [**b6**] wrote:

Cc'ing Robert Kessler, our communications director. I don't know if I'll be able to talk – I'm being sent death threats on a regular basis, and these increase when my name or our organization's name is in the press. But I'll at least be able to talk off the record.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023152
MORENS_NIH_044291
REL0000479924

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Justin Ling <justinling@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 10:54 AM
To: b6
Subject: Interview Request: Scientific American

Hi there Dr. Daszak,

I'm a freelance journalist, writing for Scientific American, on a story that I think you might have some really valuable insight on.

The story is really looking to kick the tires on the utility, efficacy, and safety of gain-of-function research.

I should say right away: This is a piece that is determined to look at the *science* of the matter, not the speculation. I pitched the piece because the histrionics around this issue have gotten so intense, that I think it's hard for people to separate fact from speculation. I've previously written about why this myth-making around the Wuhan Institute of Virology's supposedly incredibly gain-of-function research makes little sense: https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/06/15/lab- leak-theory-doesnt-hold-up-covid-china/

So the point isn't to rehash the same unproven allegations about the supposed lab origins of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023153
MORENS_NIH_044292
REL0000479924

COVID-19. The point is, now that gain-of-function is front-page news, to revisit the debates that have been had in recent decades and ask whether gain-of-function has really offered the breakthroughs we had hoped for. If so, what are they? How does that research work?

And, if not, do we have to have a new discussion about whether this research is worth it?

I think putting on the table some hard facts about what gain-of-function is, and what it's capable of, will be useful for a lot of people who have only heard the conspiracy theorists.

Let me know if you would be interested in talking. I fully appreciate that you've become a bit of an unwanted celebrity amonst the rabidly pro-lab leakers, so I'm happy to further explain exactly what I'm working on or to discuss some things on background. Just let me know.

Thanks

Justin Ling

Journalist

b6 b6

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the

contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 25 Jul 2021 3:24:09 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 25 Jul 2021 3:20:14 PM -0400
Subject: explicit language warning!
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Robert Kessler <[b6]

Here's a story, not for the faint-hearted.

It's a question for Senator (Dr.) Rand Paul, from a member of the public who called into one of his public Q&A sessions.

Obviously, one doesn't condone this base level of public discourse, but I found myself curiously buoyed by it after his months of continued attacks…

Here's a story:

https://goodwordnews.com/senator- rand-paul-said-to-get-fucked-at-virtual-town-hall/

Here's the video on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/phil_lewis_/status/1418676246003818496?s=10

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:07 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] Roberts, [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <[b6]
Cc: 'David Morens' [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Fauci defending the funding of EcoHealth's grant with WIV in the Right wing press

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021131
MORENS_NIH_041977
REL0000479928

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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 Roberts, Rich <b6 Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: David Moren b6 ; Robert Kessler b6
Subject: RE: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021132
MORENS_NIH_041978
REL0000479928

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 b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Robert Kessler b6
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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021133
MORENS_NIH_041979
REL0000479928

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:42 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' b6 ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 ; Robert Kessler b6
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 her summer home in CT (I think). 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Robert Kessler b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021134
MORENS_NIH_041980
REL0000479928

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
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Robert Kessler b6
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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 g >
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021135
MORENS_NIH_041981
REL0000479928

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Ric b6 >; Robert Kessler < b6 g >
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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Robert Kessler b6
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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021136
MORENS_NIH_041982
REL0000479928

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 Roberts, Rich < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
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

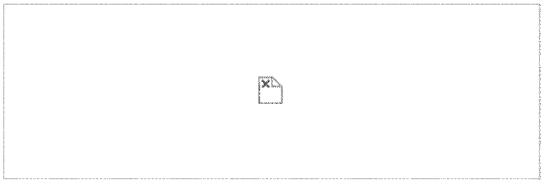
Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6

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
b6

Phone: b6



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora b6
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков <b6>; Leendertz, Fabian b6 Peter Daszak <b6>; LeendertzF (b) (6) Keith Hamilton <b6>; John Watson b6 >; DEBBICHE, Hassene b6 >; Thea Kølsen Fischer <b6>; BAERT, Primaël b6 SHEATH, Danny b6 Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) b6 >; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan b6 >; DRURY, Patrick Anthony b6 en Maeda b6 M.P.G. Koopmans (b6 b6 >; Hayman, Davi b6 ; IVANOVIC, Dragana <b6 >; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag b6 Dominic Dwyer <b6
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. b6 >; Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria b6 EN EMBAREK, Peter Karim b6
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021139
MORENS_NIH_041985
REL0000479928

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 12:18:09 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Bring on the Witchfinder-General! This shows how little we've improved in the public understanding of science since Medieval times..

It also demonstrates what a disastrous thing it was for David Relman and others to sign that letter to Science. It's fine to claim that as scientists we need to be honest about our doubt, but to give credence to the lab leak theory and place it on equal status to the wildlife farms is a heinous act as a scientist and a citizen.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6]
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.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013255
MORENS_NIH_025062
REL0000479929

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013256
MORENS_NIH_025063
REL0000479929

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.

Date: Thu, 16 Mar 2023 10:01:45 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 16 Mar 2023 10:01:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
CC: Alison Andre [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] [b6]

Thanks Peter, this looks like interesting material. Has anybody seen the material posted by Kristian Andersen and Eddie Holmes?

In addition, I do think we need to move on interviews to advance the coalition idea. Peter D is trying to organize a meeting in NY on April 27th and he and I talked with Keith Martin who is the ED of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, and he will join us.

So, after some silence, let me propose the follow for the 3 calls I have set up, pending the details.

Michael Imperiale and Arturo Casadevall: me and Peter Hotez
Mary Woolley: me and Rich Roberts
Carlos del Rio (our link in to NAM): me and Peter Daszak

If that's OK with the designees I will work with Alison to organize a call to each, with the intent of talking through the idea and determining if any of them can join us in NY (or maybe by Zoom if necessary?). So please do respond back at your earliest convenience and if you have some ideas of open windows later next week or the week after please add the dates and times you can do it.
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic

https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2023/03/covid- origins-research-raccoon-dogs-wuhan-market-lab-leak/673390/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004950
MORENS_NIH_012493
REL0000479931

Date:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 9:52:15 AM -0500
Sent:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 9:50:55 AM -0500
Subject:	Re: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To:	Roberts, Rich b6 >;
CC:	Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image.png; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Yes definitely. I've written a couple of articles on this and interviews

https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3001369

https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0001173

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/amp/

https://globalhealthnow.org/2023- 01/peter-hotez-patent-free-vaccines-and-texas-titos-and-twitter

With additional papers in review and of course the new book

10:55

Done Hotez_5a.pd



MORENS_SUBPOENA_016810
MORENS_NIH_034961
REL0000479934

RISE

ANT

SCIEN

A Scientist's W

PETER J. HOTEZ,

"Ugitatem es molut faccabo rionseque sed e

NIH 57707 - 022720

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016811
MORENS_NIH_034962
REL0000479934

"Ugitatem es molut faccabo rionseque sed e



I've made studying antiscience promoted by the House Freedom Caucus a sort of side academic pursuit. I'm hoping in my meetings in Wash DC to raise this again to White House OSTP and the National Academies. In early March, I'm receiving the Scientific Freedom Medal from AAAS (announcement forthcoming), a sort of Purple Heart medal for engaging in this awful area and hope to leverage it in getting people to listen, but it's not easy! So glad to have you and this group!

Warmest Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016812
MORENS_NIH_034963
REL0000479934

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Feb 3, 2023, at 8:37 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Peter:

Very good. I can use those myself (but only with attribution!)

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: roberts@neb.com

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: evarney@neb.com

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016813
MORENS_NIH_034964
REL0000479934

My 2 talking points

Remember, the work of the EcoHealth Alliance is what is helping to keep America safe in first identifying the fourth major coronavirus pandemic in this Century. I'm predicting number 4 will be out before the end of this decade. We must support EcoHealth Alliance.

Remember, it was Marjorie Taylor Green and her colleagues on the House Freedom Caucus and their antivaccine rhetoric that caused thousands of Americans in conservative states in the South, especially in my state of Texas, to shun vaccines and lose their lives. They killed Americans before and now they want to further endanger the US population by shutting down our warning systems for the 4th pandemic will that will surely come

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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
b6 Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Feb 3, 2023, at 7:57 AM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:

Peter:

Sorry you have to continue with this witch hunt. Almost like being in Salem!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 2:01 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to let you all know that, as predicted, we've received our first exhaustive request for documents, information and testimony. 41 questions from the House Energy & Commerce Committee Republicans. Many of them have already been answered over and over again, and many of the documents have been repeatedly FoIA'd, but of course, this isn't about getting to the truth about anything – it's about creating a 'show' for the hard right voters to watch EcoHealth squirm.

They wrote to us by email and simultaneously made the letter public of course. They've also written to NIH asking them 47 questions all about EcoHealth's terrible behavior. David – they're after your emails too…Here's the link, and I've attached the letters to us and NIH to save you the downloading time…

https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chairs- rodgers-griffith-and-guthrie-launch-e-and-c-s-118th-congress-covid-19-origins-investigation

Most outrageously, in their preamble they comment that our work in China funded by NIH provided "no scientific work product produced for the American taxpayers who helped finance these efforts, and no useful information to support pandemic preparedness efforts."

Actually, in the first 5 years of the R01 funding, we published 18 papers, including 2 in *Nature* and 1 in *Cell*. It was so productive that our renewal proposal was scored within the top 3% of grants.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016815
MORENS_NIH_034966
REL0000479934

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
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 b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016817
MORENS_NIH_034968
REL0000479934

- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6> Jeffrey Sturchio b6>; Aleksei Chmura b6>
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of

Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Roberts, Rich b6; Keusch, Gerald T <b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
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
b6

Meeting ID: b6
Passcode: b6
One tap mobile

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016819
MORENS_NIH_034970
REL0000479934

b6 US (New York)
b6 US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Cc: David Morens [b6 Roberts, Rich < b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura [b6
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016820
MORENS_NIH_034971
REL0000479934

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

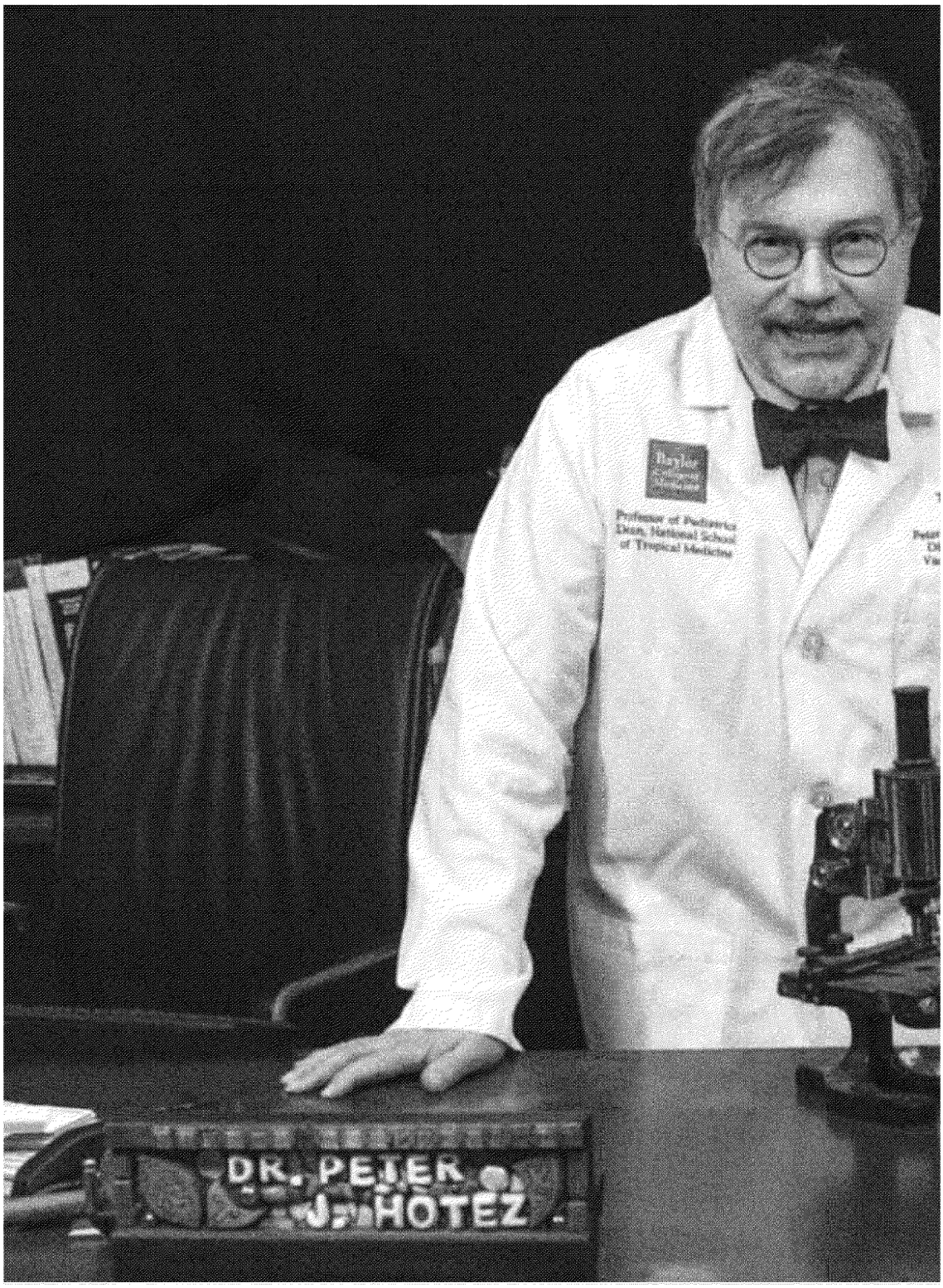
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016821
MORENS_NIH_034972
REL0000479934



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016822
MORENS_NIH_034973
REL0000479934

millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016823
MORENS_NIH_034974
REL0000479934

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016824
MORENS_NIH_034975
REL0000479934

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016825
MORENS_NIH_034976
REL0000479934

as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016826
MORENS_NIH_034977
REL0000479934

Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the

information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016828
MORENS_NIH_034979
REL0000479934

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens < b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich < b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016829
MORENS_NIH_034980
REL0000479934

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens b6 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 b6 wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak < b6

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!??

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016832
MORENS_NIH_034983
REL0000479934

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Moren b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Roberts, Rich < b6
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

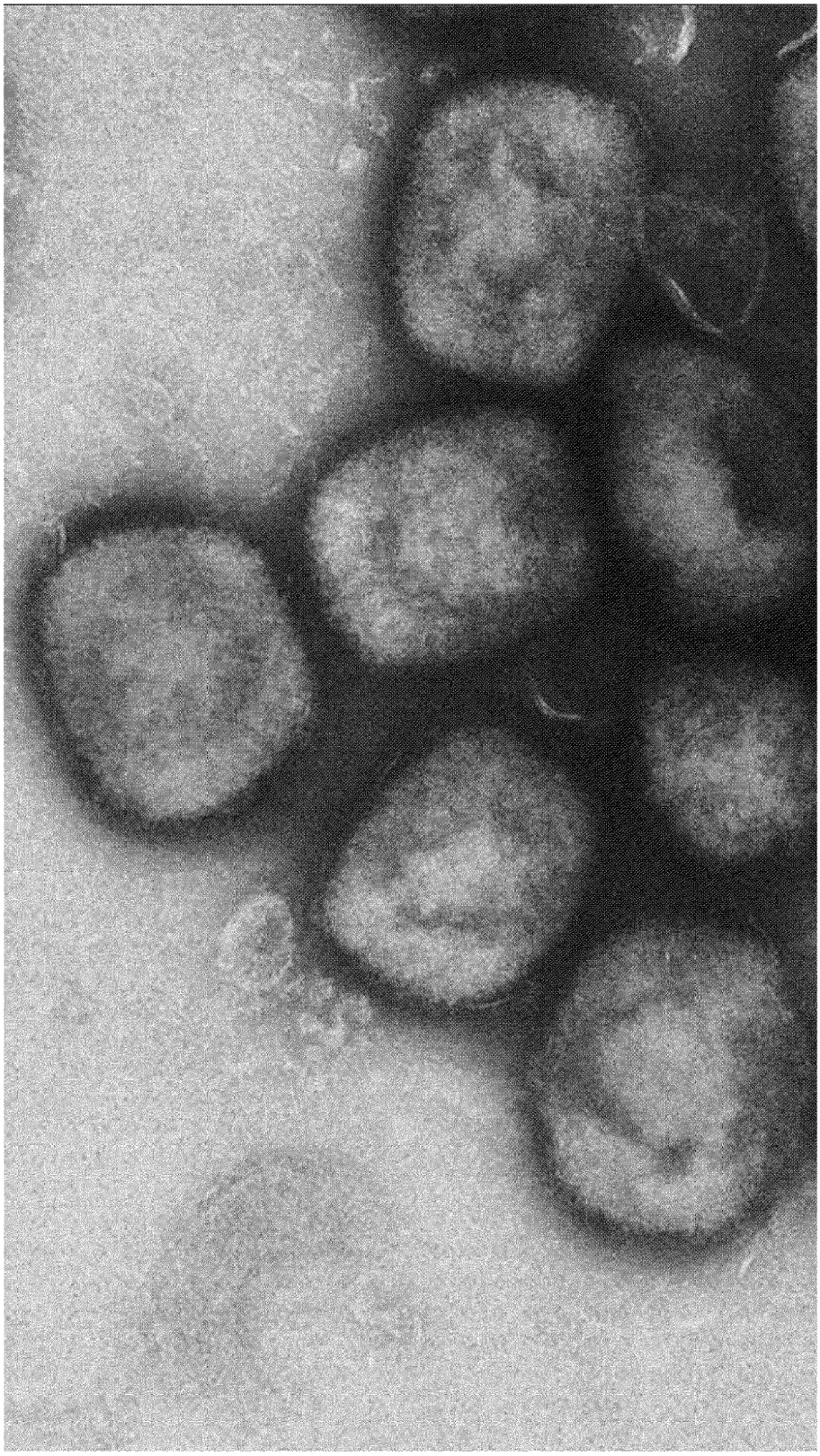
POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016834
MORENS_NIH_034985
REL0000479934



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.
NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016835
MORENS_NIH_034986
REL0000479934

kind of lab accident or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016836
MORENS_NIH_034987
REL0000479934

virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016837
MORENS_NIH_034988
REL0000479934

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens < b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Rich Robert b6 >
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016838
MORENS_NIH_034989
REL0000479934

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 <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens < b6 effrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 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 < b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6
Keusch, Gerald T < b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular

Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak < b6 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 tha b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6
Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack 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 b6 from b6 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 <
> b6 wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6], Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6

b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak < b6 > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; David Morens < b6 ; Gerald Keusch < b6 Rich Roberts b6
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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6
Aleksei Chmura b6
David Morens b6 Gerald Keusch b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Rich Roberts < b6
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:
Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6
b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6
g

iPhone

Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 10:30:00 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 10:29:46 AM -0400
Subject: Michael Hiltzik's column in today's LA Times
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] peter hotez [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Attachments: [b6]

Again, the only journalist with the chutzpah to speak the truth and avoid the 'both-sideism' that all the others are championing: It's behind a paywall, but here's the link and the article in full:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-05-17/column-democrats-prove-that-theyre-no-better-than-trump-in-allowing-politics-to-interfere-with-science

Column: Democrats show that they're no better than Trump in allowing politics to interfere with science

Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Indio) continues his irresponsible attack on a virus-hunting organization during a committee hearing Thursday.

(House of Representatives)
By Michael Hiltzik Business Columnist
May 17, 2024 3 AM PT

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Show more sharing options

Anyone who cares about the importance of science in the making of government policy had to be deeply dispirited by the hearing into the origins of COVID-19 staged by a Republican-led House subcommittee on May 1.

The sole witness at the hearing, and its target, was Peter Daszak, the head of EcoHealth Alliance, a nongovernmental organization tasked with overseeing international virus research funded by federal agencies.

It wasn't just that the GOP majority used the occasion to promote the ignorant, imbecilic and 100% evidence-free notion that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID pandemic, originated in a Chinese laboratory, through work funded by the U.S. government, and overseen by EcoHealth.

ADVERTISING

Science is a myth-buster...Because of this, science has become a nuisance, even an enemy to some industries and many of the most powerful actors in the new attention economy.
— Science blogger Philipp Markolin

It was that the Democratic minority showed itself to be complicit with the GOP attack on EcoHealth.

As I wrote at the time, the Democrats threw Daszak and by extension science itself under the bus: "Perhaps they hoped that by allowing Daszak to be drawn and quartered, they might persuade the Republicans to climb down from their evidence-free claims about government complicity in the pandemic's origins."

MORENS_NIH_051805
REL0000479936

Newsletter

Get the latest from Michael Hiltzik
Commentary on economics and more from a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Top of Form

SIGN ME UP

Bottom of Form

You may occasionally receive promotional content from the Los Angeles Times.

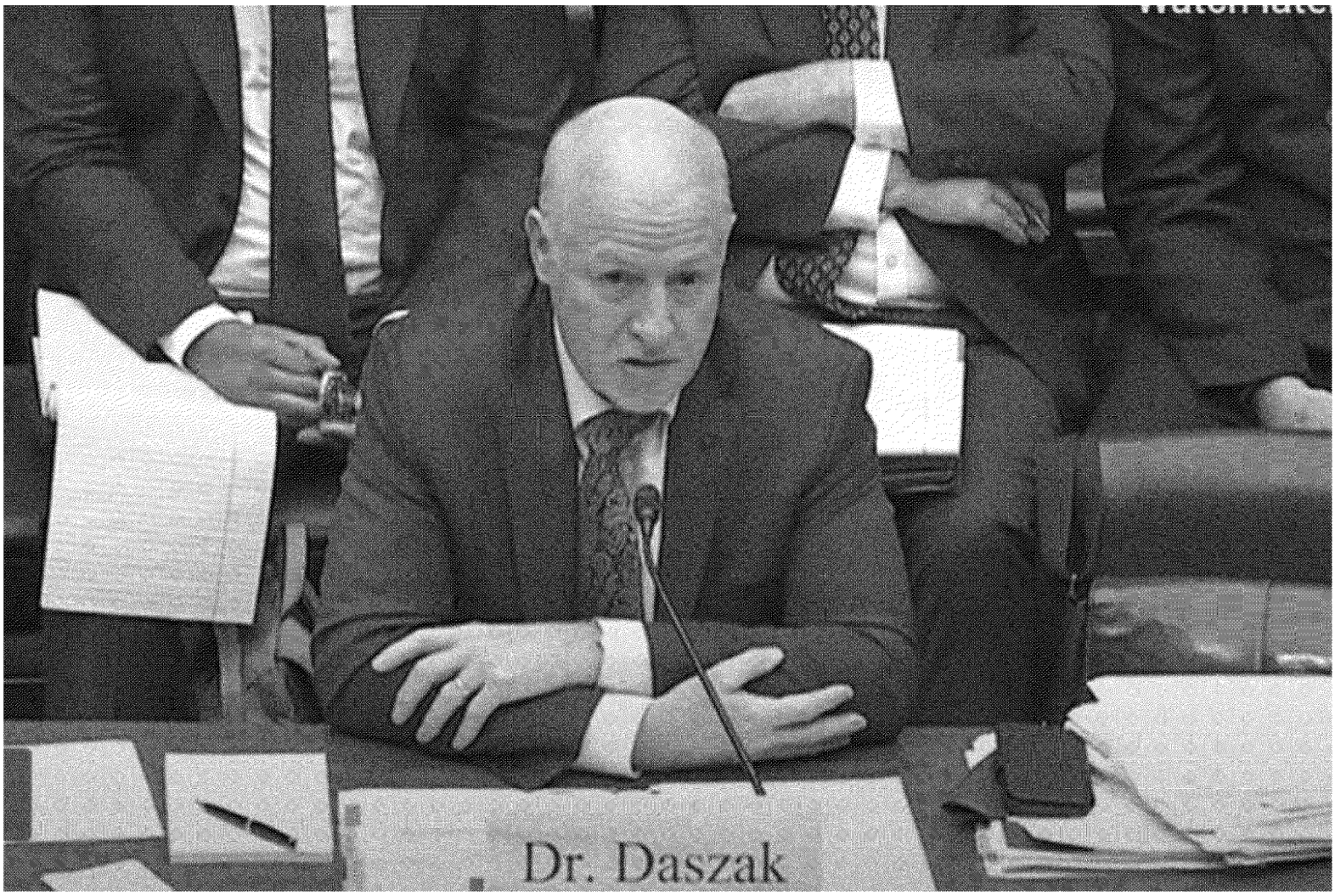
The Democrats' craven and shameful performance hinted that EcoHealth's government funding, which had been blocked by the Trump administration and restored, though delayed, under Biden, was pretty much doomed.

On Wednesday, the bell tolled. EcoHealth received a notice from the Department of Health and Human Services, the parent agency of the NIH, that it was immediately suspending all funding to the organization and moving to "debar" it from federal funding going forward.

It's impossible to overstate what a serious blow this is for EcoHealth and research into the origins of pathogens that could cause illness and death on a global scale — the central purpose of EcoHealth's work.

The organization, which has operated with a budget of about $16 million, cannot receive a contract from any federal agency or even serve as a subcontractor of another awardee. All organizations with federal contracts that have affiliated with EcoHealth will be "carefully examined."

EcoHealth says it will appeal the proposed debarment, as is its right. But that process could take years. In the meantime, the organization will be effectively out of money, and very likely out of business. The HHS action effectively turns one of the leading organizations in the quest to protect humankind from the next pandemic into a pariah, completely unjustifiably.



BUSINESS

Column: How the GOP — with Democratic Party connivance — has undermined a crucial effort to avert the next pandemic

May 2, 2024

The debarment threat "will mean the demise of EcoHealth, one of the most scientifically productive and internationally respected groups conducting field surveillance for potential pandemic viruses," says Gerald T. Keusch, a former associate director of international research at the NIH. "And that means our national security will be compromised."

Let's be clear about what has happened here. EcoHealth has been made a scapegoat for the pandemic for partisan reasons. The process started with President Trump. At a news conference on April 17, 2020, a reporter from a right-wing organization mentioned that the NIH had given a $3.7-million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. (Actually, the WIV grant, which was channeled from a larger EcoHealth grant, was only $600,000.)

Trump, sensing an opportunity to show a strong hand against China and advance his effort to blame the Chinese for the pandemic, responded: "We will end that grant very quickly." The NIH terminated the grant one week later, prompting a backlash from the scientific community, including an open letter signed by 77 Nobel laureates who saw the action as a flagrantly partisan interference in government funding of scientific research.

The HHS inspector general found the termination to be "improper." The NIH reinstated the grant, but

MORENS_NIH_051807
REL0000479936

immediately suspended it until EcoHealth met several conditions that were manifestly beyond its capability, as they involved its demanding information from the Chinese government that it had no right to receive. The grant was reinstated last year under Biden, but NIH bureaucrats, perhaps worried about their careers in a new Trump administration, continued to put administrative obstacles in the way of EcoHealth's work.

The attacks on Daszak and his organization are simply instruments of the GOP project to pin blame for the pandemic on Anthony Fauci, one of the world's most respected public health figures.

The context is a battle for the minds of uninformed and misinformed Americans over the origin of COVID-19. The hypothesis favored by most qualified virologists and epidemiologists is that the virus reached humans the way most viruses do — as spillovers from wildlife. The alternative hypothesis, for which absolutely not a speck of evidence has ever been presented, is that the virus emerged from a laboratory—specifically the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China, whether deliberately or through sloppy lab practices.

The latter hypothesis was initially promoted by an anti-China cabal in the Trump-era State Department. Although they never produced any grounds for the conspiracy theory, it remains favored by anti-vaccine agitators and in the Republican anti-science camp. It has a certain appeal for uninformed people susceptible to sinister explanations of complicated, troubling events; but it's not science.



BUSINESS

Column: Two Rutgers professors are accused of poisoning the debate over COVID's origins. Here's why

March 20, 2024

Daszak calls the government actions "fundamentally unfair" and "based on a set of false assumptions about COVID-19 origins and on persistent mischaracterizations and misunderstandings of our [b6] work has been at the forefront of understanding pandemic risk for over two decades, and it's a very cruel irony that because we knew that China was a potential hotspot for the next coronavirus pandemic, we're now being targeted in a political backlash caused by exactly the type of pandemic we were concerned about preventing."

An outgrowth of the lab-leak fantasy is the asinine claim that as head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Fauci funded research in China that created the pandemic virus and let it loose on the world, and then concealed his complicity. This is a favorite meme among lab-leak fanatics. Among the research bodies that received NIAID funding to conduct field work in China was EcoHealth. (Fauci retired last year as director of NIAID, which is part of the National Institutes of Health.)

On May 1, the GOP-led Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic brought things to a head with its grilling of Daszak. It was a circus featuring posturing politicians intent on smearing Daszak and EcoHealth on the pretext of getting to the bottom of the pandemic's cause. The committee Democrats participated fully, hammering Daszak as a "poor steward of the taxpayers' dollars," based on transparent trivialities.

During a follow-up subcommittee hearing Thursday, ranking member Raul Ruiz (D-Indio) alluded to the dishonestly of the GOP attack on Fauci. But, perhaps inadvertently, he also exposed the dishonesty of his caucus' attack on Daszak.

The committee Republicans, Ruiz said, "still have not succeeded in substantiating their allegations that NIH and NIAID through a grant to EcoHealth Alliance created SARS-CoV-2 and conspired to cover it up. ... No evidence demonstrates that work performed under the EcoHealth grants, including at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, led to the creation of SARS-CoV-2."

Does Ruiz ever listen to the words coming out of his mouth? The very goal of the GOP's dragging Daszak and EcoHealth into this controversy was to fabricate a link in the chain between Fauci and COVID-19; by rejecting the GOP position, Ruiz demolished the case against EcoHealth.

Yet Ruiz didn't walk the last mile. "EcoHealth has defied its obligations to be a transparent steward of taxpayer dollars," he said, repeated the lame case against the organization that he first aired, in connivance with the Republicans, during the public interrogation of Daszak on May 1.

Legitimate scientists, such as virology experts uninfected by the conspiratorial fantasy that the virus originated in the lab, are aghast at the suspension of EcoHealth's funding and the organization's likely debarment, as well as the Democrats' supine behavior.

BUSINESS

Column: How Trump's anti-science meddling erased 3 years of crucial COVID research

May 12, 2023

The Democrats, as Stuart Neil, a professor of virology at Kings College London, wrote on X, "have made some shoddy back room deal to allow them to look tough to the conspiracy theorists." Neil is right. There is no rational explanation for the Democrats' behavior than some sort of deal with the Republican majority to give them cover to challenge the lab leak theory.

Put it all together, and it looks like HHS started with a politically driven impulse to cut off EcoHealth's funding, followed by an effort to assemble every justification for doing so, no matter how trivial. The absurdity of its action drips from the closing words of the notice issued by H. Katrina Brisbon, an HHS "suspension and debarment official." She wrote that "the immediate suspension of EHA 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 notice was accompanied by an 11-page bill of particulars, but they all boil down to two key purported offenses — that EcoHealth had missed a 2019 deadline for an annual report of its activities to NIH, and that work EcoHealth had funded in China had produced a recombinant version of a virus that grew fast enough to trigger a safety halt in the work.

The first was tantamount to a traffic violation. EcoHealth maintained that it hadn't been able to file the report on time because it had been locked out of NIH's onlline reporting portal, which NIH denies. On the second, there were legitimate disagreements over whether the subject virus' growth actually did trigger the halt requirement; in any case, the virus wasn't a threat to human health. The work at issue took place in 2018.

HHS cited several other supposed offenses, including EcoHealth's failure to submit lab notebooks from the Wuhan institute that NIH has requested in November 2021. But since NIH had ordered EcoHealth to stop funding the institute as of April 2020, those notebooks were plainly out of its reach.

Daszak says EcoHealth will respond to the HHS and the subcommittee "with documentary evidence...refuting every single allegation that's been levied against us."

The roots of anti-science slant of Trump and others on the far right isn't hard to discern. It's aimed at protecting the economic establishment from new ideas and realities such as global warming, while providing financial and personal opportunities for grifters and charlatans.

BUSINESS

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

Sept. 28, 2021

Swiss scientist and science blogger Philipp Markolin has put his finger on this phenomenon.

"Science is a myth-buster," he writes. "Its debunking activity reduces the value of information products that too many media manipulators rely on for their business. Because of this, science has become a nuisance, even an enemy to some industries and many of the most powerful actors in the new attention economy."

Why did the Democrats agree to participate in this charade? In joining the Daszak smear, they have shredded their credibility as of scientific truth, at the very moment when science is most in need of their protection.

The time has come to ask this question of Ruiz, his Democratic colleagues on the coronavirus subcommittee — Debbie Dingell of Michigan, Kwesi Mfume of Maryland, Deborah Ross of North Carolina, Robert Garcia of Long Beach, Ami Bera of Sacramento and Jill Tokuda of Hawaii — along with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra: How can you live with yourselves?

Latest from Michael Hiltzik

- Column: Inside the effort by two Beverly Hills billionaires to kill a state law protecting farmworkers
- Column: Exxon Mobil is suing its shareholders to silence them about global warming
- Column: Calling the police on campus protests shows that college presidents haven't

learned a thing since the 1960s

More to Read

- **Column: Disinformation is a public health crisis. Here's how scientists and doctors are fighting it**

Feb. 22, 2024

- **Opinion: How climate research is polluted by fossil fuel money — and how to fix it**

Nov. 7, 2023

- **Column: Scientists are paying a huge personal price in the lonely fight against anti-vaxxers**

Oct. 20, 2023

BUSINESS

Newsletter

Get the latest from Michael Hiltzik

Commentary on economics and more from a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Top of Form

SIGN ME UP

Bottom of Form

You may occasionally receive promotional content from the Los Angeles Times.

Michael Hiltzik

- Twitter
- Instagram
- Email
- Facebook

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Hiltzik has written for the Los Angeles Times for more than 40 years. His business column appears in print every Sunday and Wednesday, and occasionally on other days. Hiltzik and colleague Chuck Philips shared the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for articles exposing corruption in the entertainment industry. His seventh book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," was published in 2020. His forthcoming book, "The Golden State," is a history of California. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; peter hotez [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] effrey Sturchio [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Nature: US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** [b6]
Date: Fri, May 17, 2024, 08:33
Subject: Nature: US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think
To:

- NEWS
- 16 May 2024

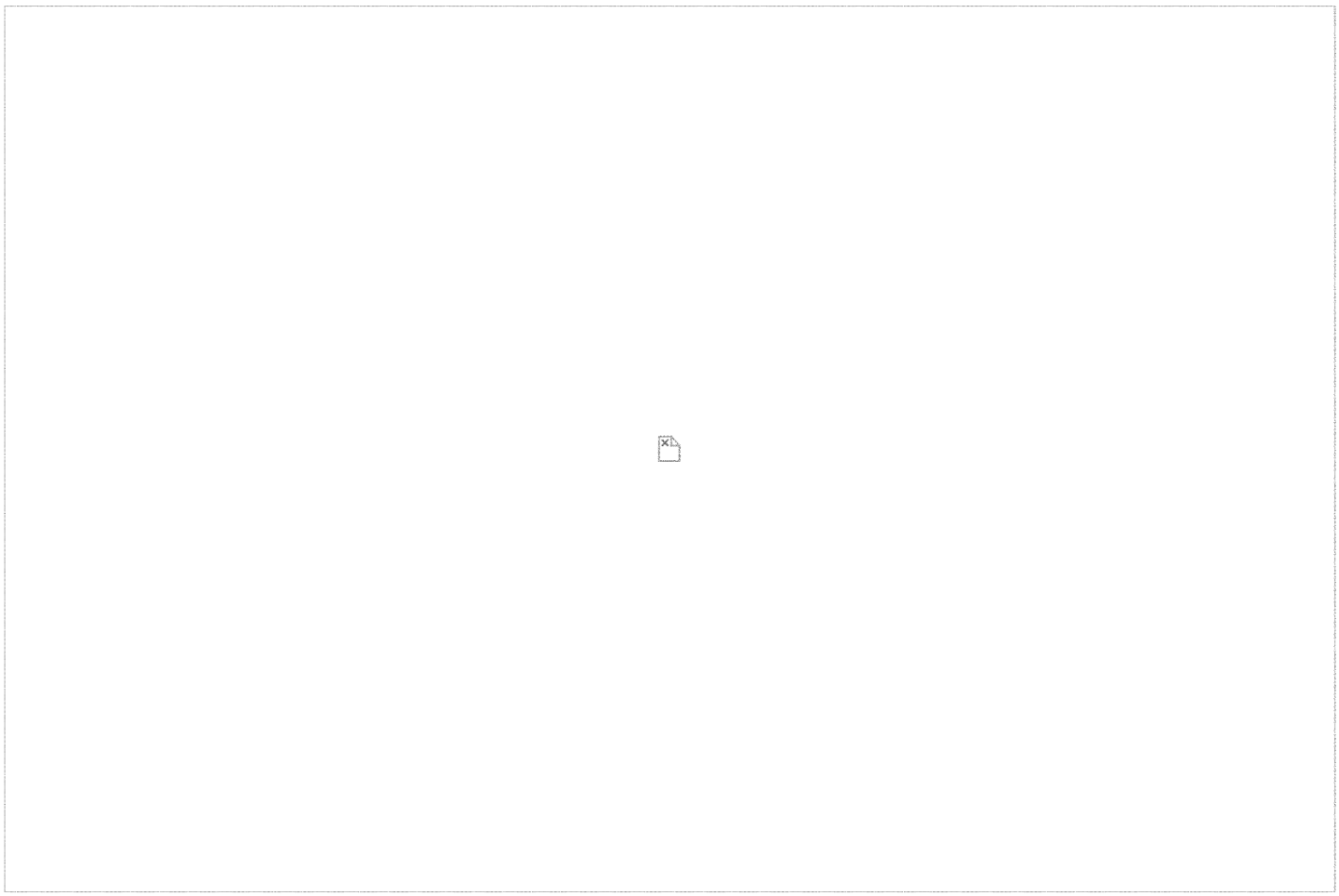
US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

Some scientists think the decision regarding EcoHealth Alliance is fair, while others say it might negatively impact virus surveillance.

By

- Mariana Lenharo

MORENS_NIH_051812
REL0000479936



EcoHealth Alliance president Peter Daszak testified before a congressional panel on 1 May, two weeks before the US government suspended the organization's federal funding.Credit: Andrew Harnik/Getty

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has suspended federal funding for EcoHealth Alliance, a New York City-based nonprofit organization that came under scrutiny during the COVID-19 pandemic for collaborating with a virology laboratory in China accused of potentially leaking the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Researchers who spoke to *Nature* are divided in their reaction to the decision: some think that the HHS made the right call given EcoHealth's apparent failure to comply with terms of a grant it was awarded, undermining public trust; others say that the decision seems to be unfairly wrapped up in politics.

The shifting sands of 'gain-of-function' research

In a memo detailing the decision, Henrietta Brisbon, the HHS's suspension and debarment official, argued that EcoHealth did not provide adequate oversight of research activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), in China. The WIV was a subrecipient on a federal grant awarded to EcoHealth by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), meaning that it was a partner given funds to carry out some of the research. The document also describes how EcoHealth repeatedly failed to provide information pertaining to the research conducted under the grant that was requested by the NIH.

The decision by the HHS comes two weeks after EcoHealth's president, infectious-disease specialist Peter Daszak, was grilled during a hearing run by a US House of Representatives subcommittee investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that session, Republican representatives suggested that EcoHealth had conducted risky research with the WIV and Democrats criticized the nonprofit's lack of transparency.

In announcing the latest suspension of funding to EcoHealth, the HHS also proposed debarring the organization from federal funding — a more definitive halting of grant money for a period generally of up to 3 years. Debarments of grantees are usually reserved for serious violations: according to a 2022 report, the HHS issued 134 debarments between 2015 and 2019, most of them owing to a criminal conviction or civil judgment.

In a statement, an EcoHealth spokesperson said that the organization is disappointed by the HHS's decision and will be contesting the proposed debarment. "We hope we will get a fair chance to present the volumes of

MORENS_NIH_051813
REL0000479936

evidence we have that all of these allegations are false, and that they do not rise to the level of something that should lead to an organization being debarred in this way," Daszak told *Nature*.
Controversial virus-hunting scientist skewered at US COVID-origins hearing

It is important for research organizations to demonstrate that they have a robust oversight system, says social scientist Filippa Lentzos, a specialist in biosecurity at King's College London, "even more so when we're talking about research with pandemic risks, where potentially the entire world could be affected by an accident". She adds that the decision to suspend funding seems appropriate: "Whatever the particulars of the EcoHealth Alliance case, it is clear the institution has lost the confidence of the HHS, politicians on both sides of the aisle and many other stakeholders to act safely, securely and responsibly."
EcoHealth could have done a better job of explaining its work to the NIH and to the public, acknowledges Lawrence Gostin, a health-law and policy specialist at Georgetown University in Washington DC. But, in his view, the suspension has a strong political bent to it. "It's not clear to me at all whether this decision was based on science, ethics or politics," he says. "There's been this drumbeat of criticism of EcoHealth Alliance, particularly from congressional Republicans, and there's been this myth that the WIV was responsible for the pandemic, but all of the evidence points in the opposite direction," to a natural spillover of SARS-CoV-2 from wild animals to humans, he adds.

Two-year delay

EcoHealth had been collaborating with scientists in China to study pathogens with pandemic potential for years when, in 2014, it received a grant from the NIH to investigate bat coronaviruses. The NIH would eventually suspend this grant in April 2020, in the early months of the pandemic. This came at a time when then-president Donald Trump had been publicly implying that China might be responsible for the pandemic. The funding was reinstated in May 2023 under extensive restrictions, and the WIV was debarred from receiving US funding through subawards later that year.
NIH to intensify scrutiny of foreign grant recipients in wake of COVID origins debate

The current suspension was motivated by the alleged lack of compliance with the 2014 grant's terms and conditions. One key problem listed by the HHS is EcoHealth's submission of a grant progress report more than two years past the deadline. The HHS said that this report contains information suggesting that an experiment conducted by the WIV possibly led to enhanced growth of a modified virus beyond a replication limit set by the NIH. EcoHealth and the WIV were modifying a coronavirus linked to Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), to study the potential origins of this type of virus in bats. When reviewing progress on the grant, the NIH told EcoHealth that if any virus generated under the grant showed evidence of replication beyond the set threshold, the nonprofit should ensure that all experiments were halted and communicate the issue to the agency, which was not done. This led the HHS to conclude that the research "likely violated protocols of the NIH regarding biosafety".
An EcoHealth spokesperson said that it is untrue that the nonprofit violated the terms of the grant, given that the experiments did not rise to a level that would be considered significant enough to report as unusual. Regarding the delay in submitting the report, the spokesperson said that EcoHealth made every effort to file the report on time, "but these were stymied by contradictory advice from NIH grant management officials, and an online system [for submitting the report] that is confusing and error-prone, leading to multiple instances where the system locked us out."
The HHS memo says that, according to a forensic audit performed by the NIH, EcoHealth was never locked out of the system.
Federal auditors have cited the NIH for its part in not pursuing the late report and recommended that the agency intensify its monitoring of foreign institutions that receive NIH funds.
Responding to the HHS's allegation that EcoHealth failed to adequately respond to the NIH's requests for information and materials related to the WIV's research, the spokesperson said that, considering the geopolitical pressure on US–China relations during the pandemic, and that the HHS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the intelligence community were all unable to get evidentiary information out of the WIV, "it is outrageous to propose this as grounds to debar our organization". (The WHO organized an initial investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, but further efforts were stymied by that country's lack of cooperation.)

MORENS_NIH_051814
REL0000479936

Questions of oversight

Amesh Adalja, an infectious-disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore, Maryland, says that any grant recipient is expected to comply with a series of conditions — which include submitting reports in a timely fashion and overseeing partner institutions — and that the HHS memo seems to indicate that EcoHealth did not fully meet those standards. "There's enough listed there to call into question what type of stewardship was going on with that taxpayer money," he says.

NIH reinstates grant for controversial coronavirus research

EcoHealth Alliance has played an important role in illuminating scientists' understanding of novel viruses, Gostin says. In addition to work on coronavirus surveillance in wildlife, the group has studied the spillover of Nipah virus and other pathogens to humans. He worries that the suspension could disincentivize research aimed at pandemic preparedness and prevention done in partnership with other countries. The next pandemic could easily arise in a country that trades wild animals, like China, so the type of research and surveillance that EcoHealth does is important, he says. The decision sends "a chilling signal to any future researcher that might want to better understand zoonotic viruses in the Chinese region", he adds.

Before the suspension, EcoHealth had three active NIH-funded grants aiming to study the risk of emerging viruses in countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar and Vietnam. Since 2008, the organization has been awarded a total of US$90.3 million in federal funding, $19.59 million of which was from the HHS.

doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-01460-3

With additional reporting from Max Kozlov.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:26 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:38:43 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
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 b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich b6
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 [b6]>, Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >, Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >

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: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6] >
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG

high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak b6 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_009737
MORENS_NIH_020247
REL0000479937

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C84552f723db848a48d7908db8a116cce%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=evU%2BhB6GmijHH3cyDRblxjAq50C%2F6cgJ%2Fj36Ts1qUiA%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>
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%7C84552f723db848a48d7908db8a116cce%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=V9gSxJzLREWsIwPztTsvZmYHQykbM%2FUHKwLhCwwYvwg%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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 7 May 2024 2:21:52 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 7 May 2024 2:18:53 PM -0400
Subject: RE: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6] Keith Martin [b6] David Morens [b6]

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin <[b6]; David Morens <[b6]
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 Agrigulture 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
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: [redacted] b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
[redacted]
iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 10:25 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 ; Keith Martin b6 David Morens
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio **b6** 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 **b6**
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich **b6**
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay **b6** >; Aleksei Chmura **b6** Jeffrey Sturchio < **b6** ; Gerald Keusch **b6** Keith Martin **b6** ; David Morens <
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 < b6 wrote:

Excellent article!

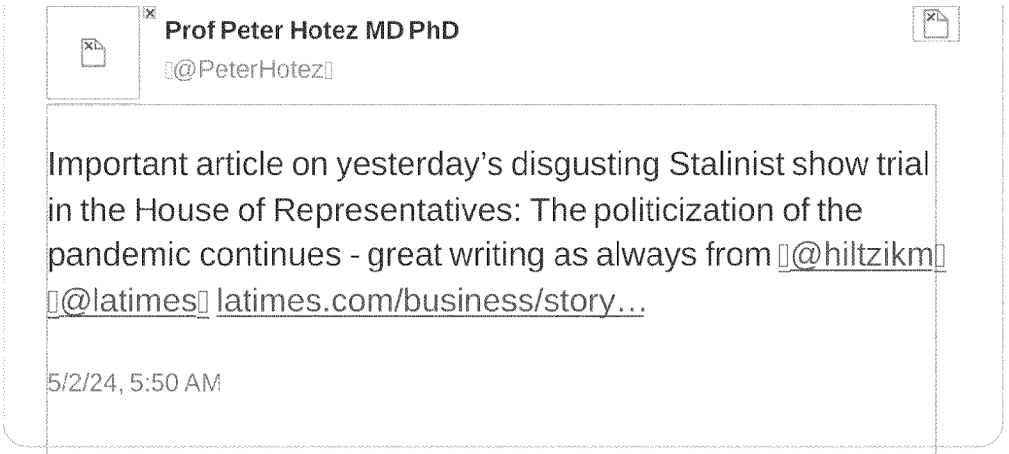
Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 g >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Gerald Keusch < b6 ; Keith Martin < b6 ; David Morens b6
Subject: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS_NIH_044957
REL0000479940



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

Date: Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:56:32 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:56:17 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins
From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]>;
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

I agree with David on both points. Peter should not be the poster child for truth, we have to be out in front. And second its hard to figure out just how to accomplish that.

For the moment, I think it is OK on the public side to sit back, let this all stew, and finally sour when the data are not there. We must remember that the "lab leak" possibility, no matter how much we see the ulterior motives of many of those leading the way, remains a possibility. It is the judgement on how likely it is and how much value there is in using time and resources to pursue it that's the key point. And at this moment in time with such vitriol out there that the likelihood you would be wasting everything when its clear China will not cooperate and, given their continued economic stability and power, they don't have to.

I'm mulling over some ideas…

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]>
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

Awful, just awful! So, again, what to do? I think you yourself are neutralized by this; others have to step up. And I think there are many many folks like me on your side, but we are not sure what we can do, individually and collectively….

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
[b6] (assistant: Whitney Robinson)

dm270q@nih.gov

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] Rich Roberts < [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler < [b6]
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

I doubt she was interested in how research actually works. This is story-telling, and it's a great story, with Frankenstein viruses (possibly), mysterious secure labs, China, cover-ups, and an organization that was handing out money like the 'child catcher' in Chitty Chitty, Bang Bang handed out sweets.

Sounds dramatic, but you should see my inbox over the last two weeks – there are some very unhinged people out there who are taking this all in hook, line, and sinker. These folks are targeting our funders, our board members, anyone who we've worked with and pushing them to speak out against us and cut ties.
I'm personally very worried for my safety, my families, and our staff's.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014392
MORENS_NIH_027089
REL0000479943

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Cc: Robert Kessler <b6>
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

Yes, it is really awful. She repeats several times the innuendo that you and Ecohealth exist to parcel out funds to bad actors like the Wuhan Institute. Completely failing to ask how research actually works.

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
- b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:13 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>
Cc: Robert Kessler <b6>

Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

Saw that piece. This apparently is a good investigative journalist and I spoke with her off the record to explain why another piece on the lab leak is not likely to be on the right side of history down the line.

She assured me it would be balanced and that she's going to look objectively at all possibilities. I smelled a rat and refused repeated attempts to get me on the record responding to what were (very obviously) Richard Ebright's obnoxious comments.

In the end, she wrote another biased piece that hits all the popular conspiracy mantras, and passively-aggressively trashes our organization by calling it a "Cut-out" – something Richard Ebright's been saying for a while.

I doubt my comments would have helped, of course, and me saying that we're a 45 yr old non-profit, that our work is published regularly in Science & Nature, and that we have worked in some of these countries, under some of the toughest conditions, for 20 or more years, would have just sounded like "well of course…they would say that wouldn't they!".

It's like the very worst of British journalism – the inneundos and unsaid hints, wrapped up in fine writing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: FW: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014394
MORENS_NIH_027091
REL0000479943

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
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:33 AM
Subject: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

VIRAL INFLECTION

The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

Throughout 2020, the notion that the novel coronavirus leaked from a lab was off-limits. Those who dared to push for transparency say toxic politics and hidden agendas kept us in the dark.

By Katherine Eban
June 3, 2021

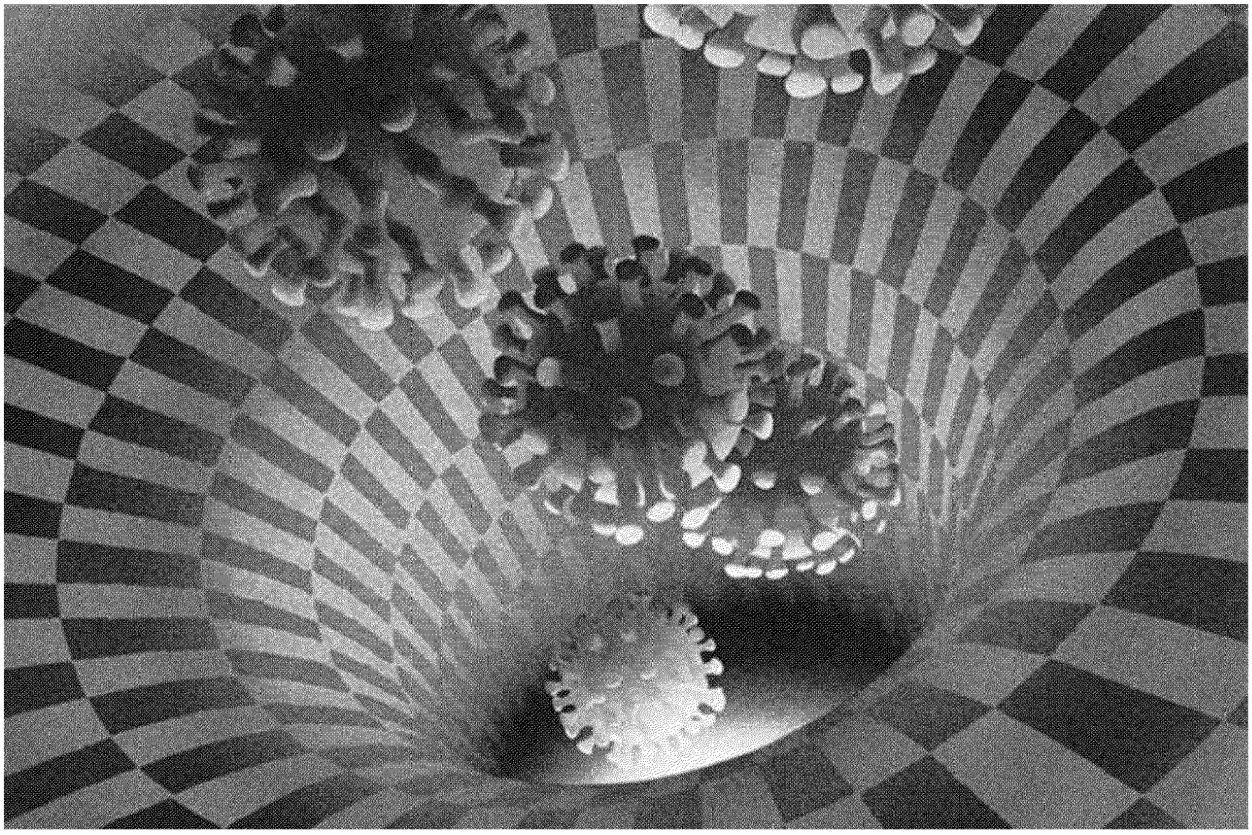


Illustration by Max Löffler.

I. A Group Called DRASTIC

Gilles Demaneuf is a data scientist with the Bank of New Zealand in Auckland. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome ten years ago, and believes it gives him a professional advantage. "I'm very good at finding patterns in data, when other people see nothing," he says.

Early last spring, as cities worldwide were shutting down to halt the spread of COVID-19, Demaneuf, 52, began reading up on the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease. The prevailing theory was that it had jumped from bats to some other species before making the leap to humans at a market in China, where some of the earliest cases appeared in late 2019. The Huanan wholesale market, in the city of Wuhan, is a complex of markets selling seafood, meat, fruit, and vegetables. A handful of vendors sold live wild animals—a possible source of the virus.

That wasn't the only theory, though. Wuhan is also home to China's foremost coronavirus research laboratory, housing one of the world's largest collections of bat samples and bat-virus strains. The Wuhan Institute of Virology's lead coronavirus researcher, Shi Zhengli, was among the first to identify horseshoe bats as the natural reservoirs for SARS-CoV, the virus that sparked an outbreak in 2002, killing 774 people and sickening more than 8,000 globally. After SARS, bats became a major subject of study for virologists around the world, and Shi became known in China as "Bat Woman" for her fearless exploration of their caves to collect samples. More recently, Shi and her colleagues at the WIV have performed high-profile experiments that made pathogens more infectious. Such research, known as "gain-of-function," has generated heated controversy among virologists.

To some people, it seemed natural to ask whether the virus causing the global pandemic had somehow leaked from one of the WIV's labs—a possibility Shi has strenuously denied.

On February 19, 2020, *The Lancet*, among the most respected and influential medical journals in the world, published a statement that roundly rejected the lab-leak hypothesis, effectively casting it as a xenophobic cousin to climate change denialism and anti-vaxxism. Signed by 27 scientists, the statement expressed "solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China" and asserted: "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."

The *Lancet* statement effectively ended the debate over COVID-19's origins before it began. To Gilles Demaneuf, following along from the sidelines, it was as if it had been "nailed to the church doors," establishing the natural origin theory as orthodoxy. "Everyone had to follow it. Everyone was intimidated. That set the tone."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014396
MORENS_NIH_027093
REL0000479943

The statement struck Demaneuf as "totally nonscientific." To him, it seemed to contain no evidence or information. And so he decided to begin his own inquiry in a "proper" way, with no idea of what he would find.



Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's lead coronavirus researcher, is frequently pictured in a full-body positive-pressure suit, though not all the labs there require one.By JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/Getty Images.

Demaneuf began searching for patterns in the available data, and it wasn't long before he spotted one. China's laboratories were said to be airtight, with safety practices equivalent to those in the U.S. and other developed countries. But Demaneuf soon discovered that there had been four incidents of SARS-related lab breaches since 2004, two occuring at a top laboratory in Beijing. Due to overcrowding there, a live SARS virus that had been improperly deactivated, had been moved to a refrigerator in a corridor. A graduate student then examined it in the electron microscope room and sparked an outbreak.

Demaneuf published his findings in a Medium post, titled "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: a review of SARS Lab Escapes." By then, he had begun working with another armchair investigator, Rodolphe de Maistre. A laboratory project director based in Paris who had previously studied and worked in China, de Maistre was busy debunking the notion that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was a "laboratory" at all. In fact, the WIV housed numerous laboratories that worked on coronaviruses. Only one of them has the highest biosafety protocol: BSL-4, in which researchers must wear full-body pressurized suits with independent oxygen. Others are designated BSL-3 and even BSL-2, roughly as secure as an American dentist's office.

Having connected online, Demaneuf and de Maistre began assembling a comprehensive list of research laboratories in China. As they posted their findings on Twitter, they were soon joined by others around the world. Some were cutting-edge scientists at prestigious research institutes. Others were unemployed science enthusiasts. Together, they formed a group called DRASTIC, short for Decentralized Radical Autonomous Search Team Investigating COVID-19. Their stated objective was to solve the riddle of COVID-19's origin.

State Department investigators say they were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box."

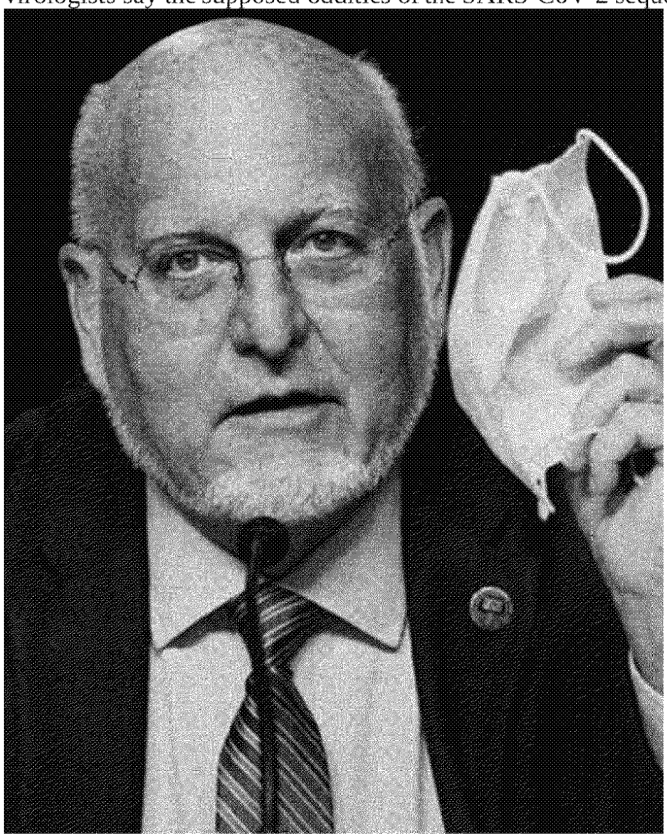
At times, it seemed the only other people entertaining the lab-leak theory were crackpots or political hacks hoping to wield COVID-19 as a cudgel against China. President Donald Trump's former political adviser Steve Bannon, for instance, joined forces with an exiled Chinese billionaire named Guo Wengui to fuel claims that China had developed the disease as a bioweapon and purposefully unleashed it on the world. As proof, they paraded a Hong Kong scientist around right-wing media outlets until her manifest lack of expertise doomed the charade.

With disreputable wing nuts on one side of them and scornful experts on the other, the DRASTIC researchers often felt as if they were on their own in the wilderness, working on the world's most urgent mystery. They weren't alone. But investigators inside the U.S. government asking similar questions were operating in an environment that was as politicized and hostile to open inquiry as any Twitter echo chamber. When Trump himself floated the lab-leak hypothesis last April, his divisiveness and lack of credibility made things more, not less, challenging for those seeking the truth.

"The DRASTIC people are doing better research than the U.S. government," says David Asher, a former senior investigator under contract to the State Department.
The question is: Why?

II. "A Can of Worms"

Since December 1, 2019, the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 has infected more than 170 million people around the world and killed more than 3.5 million. To this day, we don't know how or why this novel coronavirus suddenly appeared in the human population. Answering that question is more than an academic pursuit: Without knowing where it came from, we can't be sure we're taking the right steps to prevent a recurrence.
And yet, in the wake of the *Lancet* statement and under the cloud of Donald Trump's toxic racism, which contributed to an alarming wave of anti-Asian violence in the U.S., one possible answer to this all-important question remained largely off-limits until the spring of 2021.
Behind closed doors, however, national security and public health experts and officials across a range of departments in the executive branch were locked in high-stakes battles over what could and couldn't be investigated and made public.
A months long *Vanity Fair* investigation, interviews with more than 40 people, and a review of hundreds of pages of U.S. government documents, including internal memos, meeting minutes, and email correspondence, found that conflicts of interest, stemming in part from large government grants supporting controversial virology research, hampered the U.S. investigation into COVID-19's origin at every step. In one State Department meeting, officials seeking to demand transparency from the Chinese government say they were explicitly told by colleagues not to explore the Wuhan Institute of Virology's gain-of-function research, because it would bring unwelcome attention to U.S. government funding of it.
In an internal memo obtained by *Vanity Fair*, Thomas DiNanno, former acting assistant secretary of the State Department's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, wrote that staff from two bureaus, his own and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, "warned" leaders within his bureau "not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "'open a can of worms' if it continued."
There are reasons to doubt the lab-leak hypothesis. There is a long, well-documented history of natural spillovers leading to outbreaks, even when the initial and intermediate host animals have remained a mystery for months and years, and some expert virologists say the supposed oddities of the SARS-CoV-2 sequence have been found in nature.



Dr. Robert Redfield, former director of the CDC, said he received death threats from fellow scientists after telling CNN he thought the virus likely escaped from a lab. "I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science," he said.By Andrew Harnik/Getty Images.
But for most of the past year, the lab-leak scenario was treated not simply as unlikely or even inaccurate but as morally out-of-bounds. In late March, former Centers for Disease Control director Robert Redfield received death threats from fellow scientists

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014398
MORENS_NIH_027095
REL0000479943

after telling CNN that he believed COVID-19 had originated in a lab. "I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis," Redfield told *Vanity Fair*. "I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science."

With President Trump out of office, it should be possible to reject his xenophobic agenda and still ask why, in all places in the world, did the outbreak begin in the city with a laboratory housing one of the world's most extensive collection of bat viruses, doing some of the most aggressive research?

Dr. Richard Ebright, board of governors professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Rutgers University, said that from the very first reports of a novel bat-related coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, it took him "a nanosecond or a picosecond" to consider a link to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Only two other labs in the world, in Galveston, Texas, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, were doing similar research. "It's not a dozen cities," he said. "It's three places."

Then came the revelation that the *Lancet* statement was not only signed but organized by a zoologist named Peter Daszak, who has repackaged U.S. government grants and allocated them to facilities conducting gain-of-function research—among them the WIV itself. David Asher, now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, ran the State Department's day-to-day COVID-19 origins inquiry. He said it soon became clear that "there is a huge gain-of-function bureaucracy" inside the federal government.

As months go by without a host animal that proves the natural theory, the questions from credible doubters have gained in urgency. To one former federal health official, the situation boiled down to this: An institute "funded by American dollars is trying to teach a bat virus to infect human cells, then there is a virus" in the same city as that lab. It is "not being intellectually honest not to consider the hypothesis" of a lab escape.

And given how aggressively China blocked efforts at a transparent investigation, and in light of its government's own history of lying, obfuscating, and crushing dissent, it's fair to ask if Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute's lead coronavirus researcher, would be at liberty to report a leak from her lab even if she'd wanted to.

On May 26, the steady crescendo of questions led President Joe Biden to release a statement acknowledging that the intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios," and announce that he had asked for a more definitive conclusion within 90 days. His statement noted, "The failure to get our inspectors on the ground in those early months will always hamper any investigation into the origin of COVID-19." But that wasn't the only failure.

In the words of David Feith, former deputy assistant secretary of state in the East Asia bureau, "The story of why parts of the U.S. government were not as curious as many of us think they should have been is a hugely important one."

III. "Smelled Like a Cover-Up"

On December 9, 2020, roughly a dozen State Department employees from four different bureaus gathered in a conference room in Foggy Bottom to discuss an upcoming fact-finding mission to Wuhan organized in part by the World Health Organization. The group agreed on the need to press China to allow a thorough, credible, and transparent investigation, with unfettered access to markets, hospitals, and government laboratories. The conversation then turned to the more sensitive question: What should the U.S. government say publicly about the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

A small group within the State Department's Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance bureau had been studying the Institute for months. The group had recently acquired classified intelligence suggesting that three WIV researchers conducting gain-of-function experiments on coronavirus samples had fallen ill in the autumn of 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak was known to have started.

As officials at the meeting discussed what they could share with the public, they were advised by Christopher Park, the director of the State Department's Biological Policy Staff in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, not to say anything that would point to the U.S. government's own role in gain-of-function research, according to documentation of the meeting obtained by *Vanity Fair*.

Only two other labs in the world, in Texas and North Carolina, were doing similar research. "It's not a dozen cities," Dr. Richard Ebright said. "It's three places."

Some of the attendees were "absolutely floored," said an official familiar with the proceedings. That someone in the U.S. government could "make an argument that is so nakedly against transparency, in light of the unfolding catastrophe, was…shocking and disturbing."

Park, who in 2017 had been involved in lifting a U.S. government moratorium on funding for gain-of-function research, was not the only official to warn the State Department investigators against digging in sensitive places. As the group probed the lab-leak scenario, among other possibilities, its members were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box," said four former State Department officials interviewed by *Vanity Fair*. The admonitions "smelled like a cover-up," said Thomas DiNanno, "and I wasn't going to be part of it."

Reached for comment, Chris Park told *Vanity Fair*, "I am skeptical that people genuinely felt they were being discouraged from presenting facts." He added that he was simply arguing that it "is making an enormous and unjustifiable leap…to suggest that research of that kind [meant] that something untoward is going on."

IV. An "Antibody Response"

There were two main teams inside the U.S. government working to uncover the origins of COVID-19: one in the State Department and another under the direction of the National Security Council. No one at the State Department had much interest in Wuhan's laboratories at the start of the pandemic, but they were gravely concerned with China's apparent cover-up of the outbreak's severity. The government had shut down the Huanan market, ordered laboratory samples destroyed, claimed the right

to review any scientific research about COVID-19 ahead of publication, and expelled a team of *Wall Street Journal* reporters.
In January 2020, a Wuhan ophthalmologist named Li Wenliang, who'd tried to warn his colleagues that the pneumonia could be a form of SARS was arrested, accused of disrupting the social order, and forced to write a self-criticism. He died of COVID-19 in February, lionized by the Chinese public as a hero and whistleblower.
"You had Chinese [government] coercion and suppression," said David Feith of the State Department's East Asia bureau. "We were very concerned that they were covering it up and whether the information coming to the World Health Organization was reliable."
As questions swirled, Miles Yu, the State Department's principal China strategist, noted that the WIV had remained largely silent. Yu, who is fluent in Mandarin, began mirroring its website and compiling a dossier of questions about its research. In April, he gave his dossier to Secretary of State Pompeo, who in turn publicly demanded access to the laboratories there.
It is not clear whether Yu's dossier made its way to President Trump. But on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence put out an ambiguous statement whose apparent goal was to suppress a growing furor around the lab-leak theory. It said that the intelligence community "concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified" but would continue to assess "whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan."
State Department official Thomas DiNanno wrote a memo charging that staff from his bureau were "warned…not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "'open a can of worms' if it continued."Source: U.S. Department of State
"It was pure panic," said former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger. "They were getting flooded with queries. Someone made the unfortunate decision to say, 'We basically know nothing, so let's put out the statement.'"
Then, the bomb-thrower-in-chief weighed in. At a press briefing just hours later, Trump contradicted his own intelligence officials and claimed that he had seen classified information indicating that the virus had come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Asked what the evidence was, he said, "I can't tell you that. I'm not allowed to tell you that."
Trump's premature statement poisoned the waters for anyone seeking an honest answer to the question of where COVID-19 came from. According to Pottinger, there was an "antibody response" within the government, in which any discussion of a possible lab origin was linked to destructive nativist posturing.
The revulsion extended to the international science community, whose "maddening silence" frustrated Miles Yu. He recalled, "Anyone who dares speak out would be ostracized."

V. "Too Risky to Pursue"

The idea of a lab leak first came to NSC officials not from hawkish Trumpists but from Chinese social media users, who began sharing their suspicions as early as January 2020. Then, in February, a research paper coauthored by two Chinese scientists, based at separate Wuhan universities, appeared online as a preprint. It tackled a fundamental question: How did a novel bat coronavirus get to a major metropolis of 11 million people in central China, in the dead of winter when most bats were hibernating, and turn a market where bats weren't sold into the epicenter of an outbreak?
The paper offered an answer: "We screened the area around the seafood market and identified two laboratories conducting research on bat coronavirus." The first was the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which sat just 280 meters from the Huanan market and had been known to collect hundreds of bat samples. The second, the researchers wrote, was the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The paper came to a staggeringly blunt conclusion about COVID-19: "the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan.... Regulations may be taken to relocate these laboratories far away from city center and other densely populated places." Almost as soon as the paper appeared on the internet, it disappeared, but not before U.S. government officials took note.
By then, Matthew Pottinger had approved a COVID-19 origins team, run by the NSC directorate that oversaw issues related to weapons of mass destruction. A longtime Asia expert and former journalist, Pottinger purposefully kept the team small, because there were so many people within the government "wholly discounting the possibility of a lab leak, who were predisposed that it was impossible," said Pottinger. In addition, many leading experts had either received or approved funding for gain-of-function research. Their "conflicted" status, said Pottinger, "played a profound role in muddying the waters and contaminating the shot at having an impartial inquiry."
Peter Daszak, who repackaged U.S. government grants and allocated the funds to research institutes including the WIV, arrives there on February 3, 2021, during a fact-finding mission organized in part by the World Health Organization.By Hector RETAMAL/AFP/Getty Images.
As they combed open sources as well as classified information, the team's members soon stumbled on a 2015 research paper by Shi Zhengli and the University of North Carolina epidemiologist Ralph Baric proving that the spike protein of a novel coronavirus could infect human cells. Using mice as subjects, they inserted the protein from a Chinese rufous horseshoe bat into the molecular structure of the SARS virus from 2002, creating a new, infectious pathogen.
This gain-of-function experiment was so fraught that the authors flagged the danger themselves, writing, "scientific review panels may deem similar studies…too risky to pursue." In fact, the study was intended to raise an alarm and warn the world of "a potential risk of SARS-CoV re-emergence from viruses currently circulating in bat populations." The paper's acknowledgments cited funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and from a nonprofit called EcoHealth Alliance, which had parceled out

grant money from the U.S. Agency for International Development. EcoHealth Alliance is run by Peter Daszak, the zoologist who helped organize the *Lancet* statement.

That a genetically engineered virus might have escaped from the WIV was one alarming scenario. But it was also possible that a research trip to collect bat samples could have led to infection in the field, or back at the lab.

The NSC investigators found ready evidence that China's labs were not as safe as advertised. Shi Zhengli herself had publicly acknowledged that, until the pandemic, all of her team's coronavirus research—some involving live SARS-like viruses—had been conducted in less secure BSL-3 and even BSL-2 laboratories.

In 2018, a delegation of American diplomats visited the WIV for the opening of its BSL-4 laboratory, a major event. In an unclassified cable, as a *Washington Post* columnist reported, they wrote that a shortage of highly trained technicians and clear protocols threatened the facility's safe operations. The issues had not stopped the WIV's leadership from declaring the lab "ready for research on class-four pathogens (P4), among which are the most virulent viruses that pose a high risk of aerosolized person-to-person transmission."

Click to see the full document

On February 14, 2020, to the surprise of NSC officials, President Xi Jinping of China announced a plan to fast-track a new biosecurity law to tighten safety procedures throughout the country's laboratories. Was this a response to confidential information? "In the early weeks of the pandemic, it didn't seem crazy to wonder if this thing came out of a lab," Pottinger reflected.

Apparently, it didn't seem crazy to Shi Zhengli either. A *Scientific American* article first published in March 2020, for which she was interviewed, described how her lab had been the first to sequence the virus in those terrible first weeks. It also recounted how:

[S]he frantically went through her own lab's records from the past few years to check for any mishandling of experimental materials, especially during disposal. Shi breathed a sigh of relief when the results came back: none of the sequences matched those of the viruses her team had sampled from bat caves. "That really took a load off my mind," she says. "I had not slept a wink for days."

As the NSC tracked these disparate clues, U.S. government virologists advising them flagged one study first submitted in April 2020. Eleven of its 23 coauthors worked for the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, the Chinese army's medical research institute. Using the gene-editing technology known as CRISPR, the researchers had engineered mice with humanized lungs, then studied their susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2. As the NSC officials worked backward from the date of publication to establish a timeline for the study, it became clear that the mice had been engineered sometime in the summer of 2019, before the pandemic even started. The NSC officials were left wondering: Had the Chinese military been running viruses through humanized mouse models, to see which might be infectious to humans?

Believing they had uncovered important evidence in favor of the lab-leak hypothesis, the NSC investigators began reaching out to other agencies. That's when the hammer came down. "We were dismissed," said Anthony Ruggiero, the NSC's senior director for counterproliferation and biodefense. "The response was very negative."

VI. Sticklers for Accuracy

By the summer of 2020, Gilles Demaneuf was spending up to four hours a day researching the origins of COVID-19, joining Zoom meetings before dawn with European collaborators and not sleeping much. He began to receive anonymous calls and notice strange activity on his computer, which he attributed to Chinese government surveillance. "We are being monitored for sure," he says. He moved his work to the encrypted platforms Signal and ProtonMail.

As they posted their findings, the DRASTIC researchers attracted new allies. Among the most prominent was Jamie Metzl, who launched a blog on April 16 that became a go-to site for government researchers and journalists examining the lab-leak hypothesis. A former executive vice president of the Asia Society, Metzl sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and served in the Clinton administration as the NSC's director for multilateral affairs. In his first post on the subject, he made clear that he had no definitive proof and believed that Chinese researchers at the WIV had the "best intentions." Metzl also noted, "In no way do I seek to support or align myself with any activities that may be considered unfair, dishonest, nationalistic, racist, bigoted, or biased in any way."

On December 11, 2020, Demaneuf—a stickler for accuracy—reached out to Metzl to alert him to a mistake on his blog. The 2004 SARS lab escape in Beijing, Demaneuf pointed out, had led to 11 infections, not four. Demaneuf was "impressed" by Metzl's immediate willingness to correct the information. "From that time, we started working together."

"If the pandemic started as part of a lab leak, it had the potential to do to virology what Three Mile Island and Chernobyl did to nuclear science."

Metzl, in turn, was in touch with the Paris Group, a collective of more than 30 skeptical scientific experts who met by Zoom once a month for hours-long meetings to hash out emerging clues. Before joining the Paris Group, Dr. Filippa Lentzos, a biosecurity expert at King's College London, had pushed back online against wild conspiracies. *No, COVID-19 was not a bioweapon used by the Chinese to infect American athletes at the Military World Games in Wuhan in October 2019.* But the more she researched, the more concerned she became that not every possibility was being explored. On May 1, 2020, she published a careful assessment in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* describing just how a pathogen could have escaped the Wuhan Institute of Virology. She noted that a September 2019 paper in an academic journal by the director of the WIV's BSL-4 laboratory, Yuan Zhiming, had outlined safety deficiencies in China's labs. "Maintenance cost is generally neglected," he had

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014401
MORENS_NIH_027098
REL0000479943

written. “Some BSL-3 laboratories run on extremely minimal operational costs or in some cases none at all.”
Alina Chan, a young molecular biologist and postdoctoral fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University, found that early sequences of the virus showed very little evidence of mutation. Had the virus jumped from animals to humans, one would expect to see numerous adaptations, as was true in the 2002 SARS outbreak. To Chan, it appeared that SARS-CoV-2 was already “pre-adapted to human transmission,” she wrote in a preprint paper in May 2020.
But perhaps the most startling find was made by an anonymous DRASTIC researcher, known on Twitter as @TheSeeker268. The Seeker, as it turns out, is a young, unemployed science teacher from Eastern India. He had begun plugging keywords into the China National Knowledge Infrastructure, a website that houses papers from 2,000 Chinese journals, and running the results through Google Translate.
One day last May, he fished up a thesis from 2013 written by a master’s student in Kunming, China. The thesis opened an extraordinary window into a bat-filled mine shaft in Yunnan province and raised sharp questions about what Shi Zhengli had failed to mention in the course of making her denials.

VII. The Mojiang Miners

In 2012, six miners in the lush mountains of Mojiang county in southern Yunnan province were assigned an unenviable task: to shovel out a thick carpet of bat feces from the floor of a mine shaft. After weeks of dredging up bat guano, the miners became gravely ill and were sent to the First Affiliated Hospital at the Kunming Medical University in Yunnan’s capital. Their symptoms of cough, fever, and labored breathing rang alarm bells in a country that had suffered through a viral SARS outbreak a decade earlier.
The hospital called in a pulmonologist, Zhong Nanshan, who had played a prominent role in treating SARS patients and would go on to lead an expert panel for China’s National Health Commission on COVID-19. Zhong, according to the 2013 master’s thesis, immediately suspected a viral infection. He recommended a throat culture and an antibody test, but he also asked what kind of bat had produced the guano. The answer: the rufous horseshoe bat, the same species implicated in the first SARS outbreak.
Within months, three of the six miners were dead. The eldest, who was 63, died first. “The disease was acute and fierce,” the thesis noted. It concluded: “the bat that caused the six patients to fall ill was the Chinese rufous horseshoe bat.” Blood samples were sent to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which found that they were positive for SARS antibodies, a later Chinese dissertation documented.
A memorial for Dr. Li Wenliang, who was celebrated as a whistleblower in China after sounding the alarm about COVID-19 in January 2020. He later died of the disease.By Mark RALSTON/AFP/Getty Images.
But there was a mystery at the heart of the diagnosis. Bat coronaviruses were not known to harm humans. What was so different about the strains from inside the cave? To find out, teams of researchers from across China and beyond traveled to the abandoned mine shaft to collect viral samples from bats, musk shrews, and rats.
In an October 2013 *Nature* study, Shi Zhengli reported a key discovery: that certain bat viruses could potentially infect humans without first jumping to an intermediate animal. By isolating a live SARS-like bat coronavirus for the first time, her team had found that it could enter human cells through a protein called the ACE2 receptor.
In subsequent studies in 2014 and 2016, Shi and her colleagues continued studying samples of bat viruses collected from the mine shaft, hoping to figure out which one had infected the miners. The bats were bristling with multiple coronaviruses. But there was only one whose genome closely resembled SARS. The researchers named it RaBtCoV/4991.
On February 3, 2020, with the COVID-19 outbreak already spreading beyond China, Shi Zhengli and several colleagues published a paper noting that the SARS-CoV-2 virus’s genetic code was almost 80% identical to that of SARS-CoV, which caused the 2002 outbreak. But they also reported that it was 96.2% identical to a coronavirus sequence in their possession called RaTG13, which was previously detected in “Yunnan province.” They concluded that RaTG13 was the closest known relative to SARS-CoV-2.
In the following months, as researchers around the world hunted for any known bat virus that might be a progenitor of SARS-CoV-2, Shi Zhengli offered shifting and sometimes contradictory accounts of where RaTG13 had come from and when it was fully sequenced. Searching a publicly available library of genetic sequences, several teams, including a group of DRASTIC researchers, soon realized that RaTG13 appeared identical to RaBtCoV/4991—the virus that had sickened the miners in 2012 with what looked like COVID-19.
In July, as questions mounted, Shi Zhengli told *Science* magazine that her lab had renamed the sample for clarity. But to skeptics, the renaming exercise looked like an effort to hide the sample’s connection to the Mojiang mine.
Their questions multiplied the following month when Shi, Daszak, and their colleagues published an account of 630 novel coronaviruses they had sampled between 2010 and 2015. Combing through the supplementary data, DRASTIC researchers were stunned to find eight more viruses from the Mojiang mine that were closely related to RaTG13 but had not been flagged in the account. Alina Chan of the Broad Institute said it was “mind-boggling” that these crucial puzzle pieces had been buried without comment.
In October 2020, as questions about the Mojiang mine shaft intensified, a team of journalists from the BBC tried to access the mine itself. They were tailed by plainclothes police officers and found the road conveniently blocked by a broken-down truck. Shi, by now facing growing scrutiny from the international press corps, told the BBC: “I’ve just downloaded the Kunming Hospital University’s student’s master’s thesis and read it…. The conclusion is neither based on evidence nor logic. But it’s used

by conspiracy theorists to doubt me. If you were me, what would you do?"

VIII. The Gain-of-Function Debate

On January 3, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, got a phone call from his counterpart Dr. George Fu Gao, head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Gao described the appearance of a mysterious new pneumonia, apparently limited to people exposed at a market in Wuhan. Redfield immediately offered to send a team of specialists to help investigate.

But when Redfield saw the breakdown of early cases, some of which were family clusters, the market explanation made less sense. Had multiple family members gotten sick via contact with the same animal? Gao assured him there was no human-to-human transmission, says Redfield, who nevertheless urged him to test more widely in the community. That effort prompted a tearful return call. Many cases had nothing to do with the market, Gao admitted. The virus appeared to be jumping from person to person, a far scarier scenario.

Former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger said the "conflicted" status of leading experts who had either approved or received funding for gain-of-function research "played a profound role in muddying the waters and contaminating the shot at having an impartial inquiry."By Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post/Getty Images.

Redfield immediately thought of the Wuhan Institute of Virology. A team could rule it out as a source of the outbreak in just a few weeks, by testing researchers there for antibodies. Redfield formally reiterated his offer to send specialists, but Chinese officials didn't respond to his overture.

Redfield, a virologist by training, was suspicious of the WIV in part because he'd been steeped in the yearslong battle over gain-of-function research. The debate engulfed the virology community in 2011, after Ron Fouchier, a researcher at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, announced that he had genetically altered the H5N1 avian influenza strain to make it transmissible among ferrets, who are genetically closer to humans than mice. Fouchier calmly declared that he'd produced "probably one of the most dangerous viruses you could make."

In the ensuing uproar, scientists battled over the risks and benefits of such research. Those in favor claimed it could help prevent pandemics, by highlighting potential risks and accelerating vaccine development. Critics argued that creating pathogens that didn't exist in nature ran the risk of unleashing them.

In October 2014, the Obama administration imposed a moratorium on new funding for gain-of-function research projects that could make influenza, MERS, or SARS viruses more virulent or transmissible. But a footnote to the statement announcing the moratorium carved out an exception for cases deemed "urgently necessary to protect the public health or national security."

In the first year of the Trump administration, the moratorium was lifted and replaced with a review system called the HHS P3CO Framework (for Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight). It put the onus for ensuring the safety of any such research on the federal department or agency funding it. This left the review process shrouded in secrecy. "The names of reviewers are not released, and the details of the experiments to be considered are largely secret," said the Harvard epidemiologist Dr. Marc Lipsitch, whose advocacy against gain-of-function research helped prompt the moratorium. (An NIH spokesperson told *Vanity Fair* that "information about individual unfunded applications is not public to preserve confidentiality and protect sensitive information, preliminary data, and intellectual property.")

Inside the NIH, which funded such research, the P3CO framework was largely met with shrugs and eye rolls, said a longtime agency official: "If you ban gain-of-function research, you ban all of virology." He added, "Ever since the moratorium, everyone's gone wink-wink and just done gain-of-function research anyway."

British-born Peter Daszak, 55, is the president of EcoHealth Alliance, a New York City–based nonprofit with the laudable goal of preventing the outbreak of emerging diseases by safeguarding ecosystems. In May 2014, five months before the moratorium on gain-of-function research was announced, EcoHealth secured a NIAID grant of roughly $3.7 million, which it allocated in part to various entities engaged in collecting bat samples, building models, and performing gain-of-function experiments to see which animal viruses were able to jump to humans. The grant was not halted under the moratorium or the P3CO framework.

By 2018, EcoHealth Alliance was pulling in up to $15 million a year in grant money from an array of federal agencies, including the Defense Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, according to 990 tax exemption forms it filed with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau. Shi Zhengli herself listed U.S. government grant support of more than $1.2 million on her curriculum vitae: $665,000 from the NIH between 2014 and 2019; and $559,500 over the same period from USAID. At least some of those funds were routed through EcoHealth Alliance.

EcoHealth Alliance's practice of divvying up large government grants into smaller sub-grants for individual labs and institutions gave it enormous sway within the field of virology. The sums at stake allow it to "purchase a lot of omertà" from the labs it supports, said Richard Ebright of Rutgers. (In response to detailed questions, an EcoHealth Alliance spokesperson said on behalf of the organization and Daszak, "We have no comment.")

As the pandemic raged, the collaboration between EcoHealth Alliance and the WIV wound up in the crosshairs of the Trump administration. At a White House COVID-19 press briefing on April 17, 2020, a reporter from the conspiratorial right-wing media outlet Newsmax asked Trump a factually inaccurate question about a $3.7 million NIH grant to a level-four lab in China. "Why would the U.S. give a grant like that to China?" the reporter asked.

Trump responded, "We will end that grant very quickly," adding, "Who was president then, I wonder."

A week later, an NIH official notified Daszak in writing that his grant had been terminated. The order had come from the White House, Dr. Anthony Fauci later testified before a congressional committee. The decision fueled a firestorm: 81 Nobel Laureates

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014403
MORENS_NIH_027100
REL0000479943

in science denounced the decision in an open letter to Trump health officials, and *60 Minutes* ran a segment focused on the Trump administration's shortsighted politicization of science.
Daszak appeared to be the victim of a political hit job, orchestrated to blame China, Dr. Fauci, and scientists in general for the pandemic, while distracting from the Trump administration's bungled response. "He's basically a wonderful, decent human being" and an "old-fashioned altruist," said the NIH official. "To see this happening to him, it really kills me."
Click to see the full document
Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]
In July, the NIH attempted to backtrack. It reinstated the grant but suspended its research activities until EcoHealth Alliance fulfilled seven conditions, some of which went beyond the nonprofit's purview and seemed to stray into tinfoil-hat territory. They included: providing information on the "apparent disappearance" of a Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher, who was rumored on social media to be patient zero, and explaining diminished cell phone traffic and roadblocks around the WIV in October 2019.
But conspiracy-minded conservatives weren't the only ones looking askance at Daszak. Ebright likened Daszak's model of research—bringing samples from a remote area to an urban one, then sequencing and growing viruses and attempting to genetically modify them to make them more virulent—to "looking for a gas leak with a lighted match." Moreover, Ebright believed that Daszak's research had failed in its stated purpose of predicting and preventing pandemics through its global collaborations.
It soon emerged, based on emails obtained by a Freedom of Information group called U.S. Right to Know, that Daszak had not only signed but organized the influential *Lancet* statement, with the intention of concealing his role and creating the impression of scientific unanimity.
Under the subject line, "No need for you to sign the "Statement" Ralph!!," he wrote to two scientists, including UNC's Dr. Ralph Baric, who had collaborated with Shi Zhengli on the gain-of-function study that created a coronavirus capable of infecting human cells: "you, me and him should not sign this statement, so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way." Daszak added, "We'll then put it out in a way that doesn't link it back to our collaboration so we maximize an independent voice."
Baric agreed, writing back, "Otherwise it looks self-serving and we lose impact."
Baric did not sign the statement. In the end, Daszak did. At least six other signers had either worked at, or had been funded by, EcoHealth Alliance. The statement ended with a declaration of objectivity: "We declare no competing interests."
Daszak mobilized so quickly for a reason, said Jamie Metzl: "If zoonosis was the origin, it was a validation…of his life work…. But if the pandemic started as part of a lab leak, it had the potential to do to virology what Three Mile Island and Chernobyl did to nuclear science." It could mire the field indefinitely in moratoriums and funding restrictions.

IX. Dueling Memos

By the summer of 2020, the State Department's COVID-19 origins investigation had gone cold. Officials in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance went back to their normal work: surveilling the world for biological threats. "We weren't looking for Wuhan," said Thomas DiNanno. That fall, the State Department team got a tip from a foreign source: Key information was likely sitting in the U.S. intelligence community's own files, unanalyzed. In November, that lead turned up classified information that was "absolutely arresting and shocking," said a former State Department official. Three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, all connected with gain-of-function research on coronaviruses, had fallen ill in November 2019 and appeared to have visited the hospital with symptoms similar to COVID-19, three government officials told *Vanity Fair*. While it is not clear what had sickened them, "these were not the janitors," said the former State Department official. "They were active researchers. The dates were among the absolute most arresting part of the picture, because they are smack where they would be if this was the origin." The reaction inside the State Department was, "Holy shit," one former senior official recalled. "We should probably tell our bosses." The investigation roared back to life.
An intelligence analyst working with David Asher sifted through classified channels and turned up a report that outlined why the lab-leak hypothesis was plausible. It had been written in May by researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which performs national security research for the Department of Energy. But it appeared to have been buried within the classified collections system.
Jamie Metzl's blog became a go-to site for government researchers and journalists examining the lab-leak hypothesis. In his first post on the subject, he wrote, "In no way do I seek to support or align myself with any activities that may be considered unfair, dishonest, nationalistic, racist, bigoted, or biased in any way."By Alex Wong/Getty Images.
Now the officials were beginning to suspect that someone was actually hiding materials supportive of a lab-leak explanation. "Why did my contractor have to pore through documents?" DiNanno wondered. Their suspicion intensified when Department of Energy officials overseeing the Lawrence Livermore lab unsuccessfully tried to block the State Department investigators from talking to the report's authors.
Their frustration crested in December, when they finally briefed Chris Ford, acting undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security. He seemed so hostile to their probe that they viewed him as a blinkered functionary bent on whitewashing China's malfeasance. But Ford, who had years of experience in nuclear nonproliferation, had long been a China hawk. Ford told *Vanity Fair* that he saw his job as protecting the integrity of any inquiry into COVID-19's origins that fell under his purview. Going with "stuff that makes us look like the crackpot brigade" would backfire, he believed.

There was another reason for his hostility. He'd already heard about the investigation from interagency colleagues, rather than from the team itself, and the secrecy left him with a "spidey sense" that the process was a form of "creepy freelancing." He wondered: Had someone launched an unaccountable investigation with the goal of achieving a desired result?

He was not the only one with concerns. As one senior government official with knowledge of the State Department's investigation said, "They were writing this for certain customers in the Trump administration. We asked for the reporting behind the statements that were made. It took forever. Then you'd read the report, it would have this reference to a tweet and a date. It was not something you could go back and find."

After listening to the investigators' findings, a technical expert in one of the State Department's bioweapons offices "thought they were bonkers," Ford recalled.

The State Department team, for its part, believed that Ford was the one trying to impose a preconceived conclusion: that COVID-19 had a natural origin. A week later, one of them attended the meeting where Christopher Park, who worked under Ford, advised those present not to draw attention to U.S. funding of gain-of-function research.

With deep distrust simmering, the State Department team convened a panel of experts to confidentially "red team" the lab-leak hypothesis. The idea was to pummel the theory and see if it still stood. The panel took place on the evening of January 7, one day after the insurrection at the Capitol. By then, Ford had announced his plan to resign.

Twenty-nine people logged on to a secure State Department video call that lasted three hours, according to meeting minutes obtained by *Vanity Fair*. The scientific experts included Ralph Baric, Alina Chan, and the Stanford microbiologist David Relman.

Asher invited Dr. Steven Quay, a breast cancer specialist who'd founded a biopharmaceutical company, to present a statistical analysis weighing the probability of a lab origin versus a natural one. Scissoring Quay's analysis, Baric noted that its calculations failed to account for the millions of bat sequences that exist in nature but remain unknown. When a State Department adviser asked Quay whether he'd ever done a similar analysis, he replied there's "a first time for everything," according to the meeting minutes.

Though they questioned Quay's findings, the scientists saw other reasons to suspect a lab origin. Part of the WIV's mission was to sample the natural world and provide early warnings of "human capable viruses," said Relman. The 2012 infections of six miners was "worthy of banner headlines at the time." Yet those cases had never been reported to the WHO.

Baric added that, if SARS-CoV-2 had come from a "strong animal reservoir," one might have expected to see "multiple introduction events," rather than a single outbreak, though he cautioned that it didn't prove "[this] was an escape from a laboratory." That prompted Asher to ask, "Could this not have been partially bioengineered?"

Ford was so troubled by what he viewed as the panel's weak evidence, and the secretive inquiry that preceded it, that he stayed up all night summarizing his concerns in a four-page memo. After saving it as a PDF so it couldn't be altered, he emailed the memo to multiple State Department officials the next morning.

Click to see the full document

In the memo, Ford criticized the panel's "lack of data" and added, "I would also caution you against suggesting that there is anything inherently suspicious—and suggestive of biological warfare activity—about People's Liberation Army (PLA) involvement at WIV on classified projects. [I]t would be difficult to say that military involvement in classified virus research is intrinsically problematic, since the U.S. Army has been deeply involved in virus research in the United States for many years."

Click to see the full document

Thomas DiNanno sent back a five-page rebuttal to Ford's memo the next day, January 9 (though it was mistakenly dated "12/9/21"). He accused Ford of misrepresenting the panel's efforts and enumerated the obstacles his team had faced: "apprehension and contempt" from the technical staff; warnings not to investigate the origins of COVID-19 for fear of opening a "can of worms"; and a "complete lack of responses to briefings and presentations." He added that Quay had been invited only after the National Intelligence Council failed to provide statistical help.

A year's worth of mutual suspicions had finally spilled out into dueling memos.

The State Department investigators pushed on, determined to go public with their concerns. They continued a weeks-long effort to declassify information that had been vetted by the intelligence community. On January 15, five days before President Joe Biden's swearing in, the State Department released a fact sheet about activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, disclosing key information: that several researchers there had fallen ill with COVID-19-like symptoms in autumn 2019, before the first identified outbreak case; and that researchers there had collaborated on secret projects with China's military and "engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017."

The statement withstood "aggressive suspicion," as one former State Department official said, and the Biden administration has not walked it back. "I was very pleased to see Pompeo's statement come through," said Chris Ford. "I was so relieved that they were using real reporting that had been vetted and cleared."

X. A Fact-Finding Mission to Wuhan

In early July, the World Health Organization invited the U.S. government to recommend experts for a fact-finding mission to Wuhan, a sign of progress in the long-delayed probe of COVID-19's origins. Questions about the WHO's independence from China, the country's secrecy, and the raging pandemic had turned the anticipated mission into a minefield of international grudges and suspicion.

Within weeks, the U.S. government submitted three names to the WHO: an FDA veterinarian, a CDC epidemiologist, and an

NIAID virologist. None were chosen. Instead, only one representative from the U.S. made the cut: Peter Daszak.
It had been evident from the start that China would control who could come and what they could see. In July, when the WHO sent member countries a draft of the terms governing the mission, the PDF document was titled, "CHN and WHO agreed final version," suggesting that China had preapproved its contents.
Part of the fault lay with the Trump administration, which had failed to counter China's control over the scope of the mission when it was being hammered out two months earlier. The resolution, forged at the World Health Assembly, called not for a full inquiry into the origins of the pandemic but instead for a mission "to identify the zoonotic source of the virus." The natural-origin hypothesis was baked into the enterprise. "It was a huge difference that only the Chinese understood," said Jamie Metzl. "While the [Trump] administration was huffing and puffing, some really important things were happening around the WHO, and the U.S. didn't have a voice."
In 2012, the prominent pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan consulted on a case of miners who fell ill after digging bat feces out of a cave in Mojiang county. Their symptoms of cough, fever, and labored breathing recalled the 2002 SARS outbreak but also foreshadowed the COVID-19 pandemic.From TPG/Getty Images.
On January 14, 2021, Daszak and 12 other international experts arrived in Wuhan to join 17 Chinese experts and an entourage of government minders. They spent two weeks of the monthlong mission quarantined in their hotel rooms. The remaining two-week inquiry was more propaganda than probe, complete with a visit to an exhibit extolling President Xi's leadership. The team saw almost no raw data, only the Chinese government analysis of it.
They paid one visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they met with Shi Zhengli, as recounted in an annex to the mission report. One obvious demand would have been access to the WIV's database of some 22,000 virus samples and sequences, which had been taken offline. At an event convened by a London organization on March 10, Daszak was asked whether the group had made such a request. He said there was no need: Shi Zhengli had stated that the WIV took down the database due to hacking attempts during the pandemic. "Absolutely reasonable," Daszak said. "And we did not ask to see the data…. As you know, a lot of this work has been conducted with EcoHealth Alliance…. We do basically know what's in those databases. There is no evidence of viruses closer to SARS-CoV-2 than RaTG13 in those databases, simple as that."
In fact, the database had been taken offline on September 12, 2019, three months before the official start of the pandemic, a detail uncovered by Gilles Demaneuf and two of his DRASTIC colleagues.
After two weeks of fact finding, the Chinese and international experts concluded their mission by voting with a show of hands on which origin scenario seemed most probable. Direct transmission from bat to human: *possible to likely.* Transmission through an intermediate animal: *likely to very likely.* Transmission through frozen food: *possible.* Transmission through a laboratory incident: *extremely unlikely.*
On March 30, 2021, media outlets around the world reported on the release of the mission's 120-page report. Discussion of a lab leak took up less than two pages. Calling the report "fatally flawed," Jamie Metzl tweeted: "They set out to prove one hypothesis, not fairly examine all of them."
The report also recounted how Shi rebutted conspiracy theories and told the visiting team of experts that "there had been no reports of unusual diseases, none diagnosed, and all staff tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies." Her statement directly contradicted the findings summarized in the January 15 State Department fact sheet. "That was a willful lie by people who know it's not true," said a former national security official.
Click to see the full document
An internal U.S. government analysis of the mission's report, obtained by *Vanity Fair,* found it to be inaccurate and even contradictory, with some sections undermining conclusions made elsewhere and others relying on reference papers that had been withdrawn. Regarding the four possible origins, the analysis stated, the report "does not include a description of how these hypotheses were generated, would be tested, or how a decision would be made between them to decide that one is more likely than another." It added that a possible laboratory incident received only a "cursory" look, and the "evidence presented seems insufficient to deem the hypothesis 'extremely unlikely.'"
The report's most surprising critic was the WHO's director himself, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia. With the credibility of the World Health Organization on the line, he appeared to acknowledge the report's shortcomings at a press event the day of its release. "As far as WHO is concerned all hypotheses remain on the table," he said. "We have not yet found the source of the virus, and we must continue to follow the science and leave no stone unturned as we do."
His statement reflected "monumental courage," said Metzl. "Tedros risked his entire career to defend the integrity of the WHO." (The WHO declined to make Tedros available for an interview.)
By then, an international coalition of roughly two dozen scientists, among them DRASTIC researcher Gilles Demaneuf and EcoHealth critic Richard Ebright at Rutgers, had found a way around what Metzl described as a "wall of rejections" by scientific journals. With Metzl's guidance, they began publishing open letters in early March. Their second letter, issued on April 7, condemned the mission report and called for a full investigation into the origin of COVID-19. It was picked up widely by national newspapers.
A growing number of people were demanding to know what exactly had gone on inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Were the claims in the State Department's fact sheet—of sick researchers and secret military research—accurate?
Metzl had managed to question Shi directly a week before the release of the mission report. At a March 23 online lecture by Shi, hosted by Rutgers Medical School, Metzl asked if she had full knowledge of all the research being done at the WIV and all the

viruses held there, and if the U.S. government was correct that classified military research had taken place. She responded: We—our work, our research is open, and we have a lot of international collaboration. And from my knowledge, all our research work is open, is transparency. So, at the beginning of COVID-19, we heard the rumors that it's claimed in our laboratory we have some project, blah blah, with army, blah blah, these kinds of rumors. But this is not correct because I am the lab's director and responsible for research activity. I don't know any kind of research work performed in this lab. This is incorrect information.
A major argument against the lab-leak theory hinged on the presumption that Shi was telling the truth when she said the WIV was not hiding any virus samples that are closer cousins to SARS-CoV-2. In Metzl's view, if she was lying about the military's involvement, or anything else, then all bets were off.

XI. Inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology

In January 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology issued a press release hailing Shi Zhengli's "distinguished and pioneering achievement in discovery and characterization of important bat-borne viruses." The occasion was her election as a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Microbiology—just the latest milestone in a glittering scientific career. In China, the celebrated "Bat Woman" was easily recognizable from photos showing her in a full-body positive-pressure suit inside the WIV's BSL-4 lab.
Shi was a fixture at international virology conferences, thanks to her "state-of-the-art" work, said James LeDuc, the longtime director of the BSL-4 Galveston National Laboratory in Texas. At the international meetings he organized, Shi was a regular, along with Ralph Baric from UNC. "She's a charming person, completely fluent in English and French," said LeDuc. Sounding almost wistful, he added, "This is how science works. You get everyone together, they share their data, go out and have a beer."
Shi's journey to the top of the virology field had begun with treks to remote bat caves in southernmost China. In 2006, she trained at the BSL-4 Jean Merieux-Inserm Laboratory in Lyon, France. She was named director of the WIV's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases in 2011, and its BSL-3 lab director in 2013.
It's hard to think of anyone, anywhere, who was better prepared to meet the challenge of COVID-19. On December 30, 2019, at around 7 p.m., Shi received a call from her boss, the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, according to an account she gave to *Scientific American*. He wanted her to investigate several cases of patients hospitalized with a mysterious pneumonia: "Drop whatever you are doing and deal with it now."
The next day, by analyzing seven patient samples, her team became one of the first to sequence and identify the ailment as a novel SARS-related coronavirus. By January 21, she had been appointed to lead the Hubei Province COVID-19 Emergency Scientific Research Expert Group. At a terrifying moment, in a country that exalted its scientists, she had reached a pinnacle.
But her ascent came at a cost. There is reason to believe she was hardly free to speak her mind or follow a scientific path that didn't conform to China's party line. Though Shi had planned to share isolated samples of the virus with her friend James LeDuc in Galveston, Beijing officials blocked her. And by mid-January, a team of military scientists led by China's top virologist and biochemical expert, Major General Chen Wei, had set up operations inside the WIV.
Under scrutiny from governments including her own, with bizarre conspiracy theories and legitimate doubts swirling around her, she began lashing out at critics. "The 2019 novel coronavirus is a punishment from nature for humanity's uncivilized habits," she wrote in a February 2 post on WeChat, a popular social media app in China. "I, Shi Zhengli, guarantee on my life that it has nothing to do with our lab. May I offer some advice to those people who believe and spread bad media rumors: shut your dirty mouths."
Though Shi has portrayed the WIV as a transparent hub of international research beset by false allegations, the State Department's January fact sheet painted a different picture: of a facility conducting classified military research, and hiding it, which Shi adamantly denies. But a former national security official who reviewed U.S. classified materials told *Vanity Fair* that inside the WIV, military and civilian researchers are "doing animal research in the same fricking space."
While that, in and of itself, does not prove a lab leak, Shi's alleged lies about it are "absolutely material," said a former State Department official. "It speaks to the honesty and credibility of the WIV that they kept this secret…. You have a web of lies, coercion, and disinformation that is killing people."
Vanity Fair sent Shi Zhengli and the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology detailed questions. Neither responded to multiple requests for comment by email and phone.
As officials at the NSC tracked collaborations between the WIV and military scientists—which stretch back 20 years, with 51 coauthored papers—they also took note of a book flagged by a college student in Hong Kong. Written by a team of 18 authors and editors, 11 of whom worked at China's Air Force Medical University, the book, *Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Man-Made Viruses as Genetic Bioweapons*, explores issues surrounding the development of bioweapons capabilities. Claiming that terrorists using gene editing had created SARS-CoV-1 as a bioweapon, the book contained some alarming practical trade craft: "Bioweapon aerosol attacks are best conducted during dawn, dusk, night or cloudy weather because ultraviolet rays can damage the pathogens." And it cited collateral benefits, noting that a sudden surge of hospitalizations could cause a healthcare system to collapse. One of the book's editors has collaborated on 12 scientific papers with researchers at the WIV.
University of North Carolina virologist Ralph Baric collaborated with Shi Zhengli on a gain-of-function coronavirus experiment in 2015. In February 2020, he privately expressed support for Peter Daszak's *Lancet* statement dismissing the lab-leak theory. More recently, he signed a letter calling for a transparent investigation of all hypotheses.By Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

The book's dramatic rhetoric could have been hype by Chinese military researchers trying to sell books, or a pitch to the People's Liberation Army for funding to launch a biowarfare program. When a reporter with the Rupert Murdoch–owned newspaper *The Australian* published details from the book under the headline "Chinese Held Talks on Bioweapons Benefits," the *Global Times*, a Chinese state-owned media outlet, ridiculed the article, noting that the supposedly "leaked" book was for sale on Amazon.

The inflammatory idea of SARS-CoV-2-as-bioweapon has gained traction as an alt-right conspiracy theory, but civilian research under Shi's supervision that has yet to be made public raises more realistic concerns. Shi's own comments to a science journal, and grant information available on a Chinese government database, suggest that in the past three years her team has tested two novel but undisclosed bat coronaviruses on humanized mice, to gauge their infectiousness.

In April 2021, in an editorial in the journal *Infectious Diseases & Immunity*, Shi resorted to a familiar tactic to contain the cloud of suspicion enveloping her: She invoked scientific consensus, just as the *Lancet* statement had. "The scientific community strongly dismisses these unproven and misleading speculations and generally accepts that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin and was selected either in an animal host before zoonotic transfer, or in humans following zoonotic transfer," she wrote.

But Shi's editorial had no muzzling effect. On May 14, in a statement published in *Science Magazine*, 18 prominent scientists called for a "transparent, objective" investigation into COVID-19's origins, noting, "We must take hypotheses about both natural and laboratory spillovers seriously until we have sufficient data."

Among the signers was Ralph Baric. Fifteen months earlier, he had worked behind the scenes to help Peter Daszak stage-manage the *Lancet* statement. The scientific consensus had been smashed to smithereens.

XII. Out of the Shadows

By spring of 2021, the debate over COVID-19's origins had become so noxious that death threats were flying in both directions. In a CNN interview on March 26, Dr. Redfield, the former CDC director under Trump, made a candid admission: "I am of the point of view that I still think the most likely etiology of this pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory, you know, escaped." Redfield added that he believed the release was an accident, not an intentional act. In his view, nothing that happened since his first calls with Dr. Gao changed a simple fact: The WIV needed to be ruled out as a source, and it hadn't been.

After the interview aired, death threats flooded his inbox. The vitriol came not just from strangers who thought he was being racially insensitive but also from prominent scientists, some of whom used to be his friends. One said he should just "wither and die."

Peter Daszak was getting death threats too, some from QAnon conspirators.

Inside the U.S. government, meanwhile, the lab-leak hypothesis had survived the transition from Trump to Biden. On April 15, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the House Intelligence Committee that two "plausible theories" were being weighed: a lab accident or natural emergence.

Even so, lab-leak talk was mostly confined to right-wing news outlets through April, gleefully flogged by Tucker Carlson and studiously avoided by most of the mainstream media. In Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee's Republican minority had launched its own inquiry, but there was little buy-in from Democrats and the NIH didn't provide responses to its lengthy list of demands for information.

The ground began to shift on May 2, when Nicholas Wade, a former *New York Times* science writer known in part for writing a controversial book about how genes shape the social behavior of different races, published a lengthy essay on Medium. In it, he analyzed the scientific clues both for and against a lab leak, and excoriated the media for its failure to report on the dueling hypotheses. Wade devoted a full section to the "furin cleavage site," a distinctive segment of SARS-CoV-2's genetic code that makes the virus more infectious by allowing it to efficiently enter human cells.

Within the scientific community, one thing leapt off the page. Wade quoted one of the world's most famous microbiologists, Dr. David Baltimore, saying that he believed the furin cleavage site "was the smoking gun for the origin of the virus." Baltimore, a Nobel Laureate and pioneer in molecular biology, was about as far from Steve Bannon and the conspiracy theorists as it was possible to get. His judgment, that the furin cleavage site raised the prospect of gene manipulation, had to be taken seriously.

With questions growing, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins released a statement on May 19 asserting that "neither NIH nor NIAID have ever approved any grant that would have supported 'gain-of-function' research on coronaviruses that would have increased their transmissibility or lethality for humans."

On May 24, the WHO's decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, kicked off a virtual edition of its annual conference. In the weeks leading up to it, a parade of high-profile stories broke, including two front-page reports in *The Wall Street Journal* and a long Medium post from a second former *New York Times* science reporter. Not surprisingly, China's government fired back during the conference, saying that it would not participate in further inquiries within its borders.

On May 28, two days after President Biden announced his 90-day intelligence review, the U.S. Senate passed a unanimous resolution, which Jamie Metzl had helped shape, calling on the World Health Organization to launch a comprehensive investigation into the origins of the virus.

Will we ever know the truth? Dr. David Relman of Stanford University School of Medicine has been advocating for an investigation like the 9/11 Commission to examine COVID-19's origins. But 9/11 took place in one day, he said, whereas "this has so many different manifestations, consequences, responses across nations. All of that makes it a hundred-dimensional problem."

The bigger problem is that so much time has gone by. "With every passing day and week, the kinds of information that might prove helpful will have a tendency to dissipate and disappear," he said. "The world ages and things get moved, and biological

signals degrade."
China obviously bears responsibility for stonewalling investigators. Whether it did so out of sheer authoritarian habit or because it had a lab leak to hide is, and may always be, unknown.
The United States deserves a healthy share of blame as well. Thanks to their unprecedented track record of mendacity and race-baiting, Trump and his allies had less than zero credibility. And the practice of funding risky research via cutouts like EcoHealth Alliance enmeshed leading virologists in conflicts of interest at the exact moment their expertise was most desperately needed. Now, at least, there appears to be the prospect of a level inquiry—the kind Gilles Demaneuf and Jamie Metzl had wanted from the start. "We needed to create a space where all of the hypotheses could be considered," Metzl said.
If the lab-leak explanation proves accurate, history may credit Demaneuf and his fellow doubters for breaking the dam—not that they have any intention of stopping. They are now knee-deep in examining the WIV's construction orders, sewage output, and cell phone traffic. The thought driving Paris Group cofounder Virginie Courtier forward is simple: "There are unanswered questions," she says, "and a few human beings know the answers."
Additional reporting by Lili Pike, with research assistance from Stan Friedman.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:59:33 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:57:46 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 b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens b6 >
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 b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>, Peter Daszak [b6]>, Aleksei Chmura [b6]>, David Morens [b6]>, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>, Rich Roberts [b6]

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb9d5a8ba4a6f4096cbf508db8b9e19bb%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=DP5PgnGBTifvejgIJ75j6KErqQoCjep0A9Grssc1dxM%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>
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%7Cb9d5a8ba4a6f4096cbf508db8b9e19bb%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=4%2FxttcaSwqULfnnJQTd05wu4vTLi60iusWVR2fnDqno%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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

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:	Sat, 20 Feb 2021 8:59:52 PM -0500
Sent:	Sat, 20 Feb 2021 8:59:49 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
CC:	Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.png

And you will have it. Did you contact Rich Roberts yet? It would be useful if he was in touch with Harold, who then got in touch with Tony.

I know there is great frustration, but politics works on its own timetable. Biden's administration has to be concerned with the big items in front of them. COVID first, economic stimulus and support for ordinary people and for state and city government next, reversing more of Trumps policies, getting the Trumpies out of government positions including the post office, China and Russia not too far behind. Where do you think EcoHealth Alliance comes in the timetable? So you really need to bide your time, but be sure anything that has a time deadline, like filing legal documents etc, is done within the time frame. This will percolate up again when there is more oxygen to fuel it. We will not let it lie fallow for longer than makes sense, while trying the "normal routes". That's why I am really glad you are exploring it with the program people now. We need to get the influencers within government to make the case, and they need to hear from the scientific community.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 6:32 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Thanks for the email - I know you're right Jerry and I'm resigned to the continued longhaul at this stage. Came back from China v. frustrated that Biden's overt stance on China is going to be the same as Trump for now. I knew this would be the case, and it makes sense politically, but it's just going to drag this on for me and EcoHealth. On the bigger issue of political interference in funding, let's see what my program officer can find out. If the answer comes back 'no' to releasing the funds, then I'm going to need continued support from all of the people who spoke out last year against the action…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:23 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Taking measured steps is the right path. In addition your measured (mostly) comments on the various media interviews you have given are effective, enhancing your stature as a respected and thoughtful expert. Keep it up.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

I'll email Rich later today probably. Erik Stemmy, my program officer at NIAID says he'll look into it. I don't think for a minute the funds will be released, but this is the correct thing to do before moving on.

If NIH O/D won't release the grant at this point, the only way forward would be to file an action. I'll need public support for that. It would be very unfortunate and I'm hoping it won't come to it.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012479
MORENS_NIH_023737
REL0000479947

Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Thanks Peter,

Thanks for the update. I would be happy to be a Tony Whisperer when the time is right. It's a bit hard for me to interpret the NIH speak and the actions to follow will provide the necessary clarification. I too hope this is now history. However, my sense also tells me that until there is a public disclosure that will preclude any precedent arising from this terrible episode at NIH I don't think we can just rest easy.

Were you in touch with Rich Roberts? Keep me in the loop.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:04 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6; David Morens b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
Importance: High

Jerry and David,

Just got off a call with our pro bono lawyers. They'd been in contact with NIH O/D re. another FOIA request. The person they dealt with told them that there are no pending inquiries into the Wuhan Institute of Virology – the stated reason that our grant was initially terminated. The email chain is below including an email I just sent to Erik Stemmy, cc'd to Emily Erbelding and Cristina Cassetti asking to let me know of the status of our grant. We're hoping that we'll get information that the grant is now fully reinstated without conditions.

I'm letting you know so that you might whisper in Tony's ear in case it gets up to him. I realize it's been dealt with in the past by the Office of the Director, but let's see what happens – this is an attempt to give them a way to quietly continue the funding without further escalation.

Keeping my fingers crossed here, and anything that you can do to help or advise, or smooth the right passage would be very much appreciated.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012480
MORENS_NIH_023738
REL0000479947

USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:59 PM
To: 'Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6 ; 'Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]' b6 b6
Subject: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
Importance: High

Hi Erik,

We received an email (below) from Garcia-Malone Gorka of the Office of Director letting us know that they have confirmed there are no pending investigations into the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and that the grant is funded. Because of that email, I'm writing to ask if you can confirm that we can move ahead with a continuation of our 5-yr award R01AI110964 and spend funds against the budget.

We're really hopeful that this is the case, and everyone at EcoHealth Alliance is looking forward to continuing this critical work.

Looking forward to hearing news from you!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garcia-Malene, Gorka (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:20:51 PM
To: Matthew R.Torsiello
Cc: Nels T. Lippert; Andrew N. Krinsky; Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E]; NIH FOIA
Subject: [EXT] FW: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Good afternoon, Mr. Torsiello –

I'd like to insert myself into the unfolding FOIA conversation in hopes of providing some helpful context. Our records show that

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012481
MORENS_NIH_023739
REL0000479947

this competing renewal has in fact been funded. In addition, any indication from my program that there is an ongoing investigation into WIV can now be disregarded, as we recently confirmed there are no pending investigations into that organization. If we can agree on the above, all that would remain is to receive your proposed redactions to the records sought under the FOIA request.

Please let me know if there are any questions. I look forward to facilitating the Pre-Disclosure Notification process as efficiently as possible.

Best regards.

Gorka Garcia-Malene |FOIA Officer for the National Institutes of Health

From: Matthew R.Torsiello [b6] >
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Cc: Nels T. Lippert [b6]; Andrew N. Krinsky [b6]
Subject: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Dear Ms. Bartok:

As you may recall, this firm represents EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. ("EcoHealth Alliance"), with respect to certain FOIA requests, including the instant request, FOIA Case No. 55702. The instant request seeks the same documents sought last year in FOIA Case No. 53996, regarding the research project *Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence*, funded under grant 2R01AI110964. A copy of our prior letter regarding FOIA 53996 is available via the link provided below using the password NIH12345. On the grounds set forth in the letter, FOIA 53996 was denied in its entirety.

Likewise, FOIA 55702 should be denied and the grant documents should be withheld. First, grant 2R01AI110964-06 remains an unfunded competing renewal grant that is the subject of a pending first-level appeal and, thus, the materials are not subject to disclosure under NIH Grants Policy Statement §2.3.11.2.2. Moreover, in the context of the appeal, NIH has made multiple requests for further information regarding The Wuhan Institute of Virology ("WIV"), which requests indicate that a law enforcement investigation concerning WIV remains ongoing. Second, as demonstrated by the recent attack on the US Capital fueled by disinformation and conspiracy theories, the need to protect the privacy of EcoHealth Alliance's employees and affiliates is more important than ever. Last, while EcoHealth Alliance did not initially identify that the grant proposal contained confidential-commercial and propriety information, this is not dispositive. Moreover, since the filing of the renewal application, there has been a global COVID-19 pandemic, which has sparked international and highly competitive research in the area of bat coronaviruses.

At the very least, the responsive documents will require significant redactions. While the grant documents were previously reviewed and redacted in connection with FOIA 53996, we require a further opportunity to review the documents to confirm, *inter alia*, that all personnel information has been removed given the heightened risk of harm in this unprecedented political environment. Accordingly, EcoHealth Alliance respectfully requests a forty-five (45) day extension of time to respond to FOIA 55702, to allow sufficient time for EcoHealth Alliance to conduct a further review of the responsive documents and provide an updated letter response that incorporates recent developments and specific justifications for additional redactions.

Please confirm that NIH will deny FOIA 55702 in its entirety or that NIH is agreeable to EcoHealth Alliance's request for an extension of time to provide a particularized response to FOIA 55702. Please also confirm NIH's receipt of this email.

Thank you.

Best,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012482
MORENS_NIH_023740
REL0000479947

Matthew R. Torsiello

FOIA Case No. 53996 - EcoHealth Alliance's Letter Response to FOIA Request, dated June 5, 2020 (With Exhibits)
https://tarterkrinsky-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/p/mtorsiello/EYHsvmSBaINAk6mAgJfyl-gByaIrZFhCEBLGOnHjfTjMOw?e=mZHyA8

Matthew R.Torsiello | Associate
D: b6 b6 b6 F: 212-216-8001
b6 | Bio
Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn
COVID-19 RESOURCECENTER

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational. All attorneys and staff have been and will continue to be working remotely and TKD has put measures in place to ensure our services continue uninterrupted. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically, until further notice. Please contact Katrinia Soares at reception@tarterkrinsky.com or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies during these unprecedented times.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named (addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational. All attorneys and staff have been and will continue to be working remotely and TKD has put measures in place to ensure our services continue uninterrupted. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically, until further notice. Please contact Katrinia Soares at reception@tarterkrinsky.com or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies during these unprecedented times.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named (addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:20 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 9:02 AM
Subject: RE: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >, Gerald T Keusch b6 >, Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org >

Love this quote from Angie!

“Like many of his fellow economists with Ivy League credentials but no specific expertise in biology, he suffers from the delusion that he knows what the fuck he’s talking about.”

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens
b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio
b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread

EXTERNAL SENDER

https://twitter.com/angie_rasmussen/status/1561695035069870080?s=21 &t=PAHTkUvPvV4TIR26yw9vPA

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > 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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004253
MORENS_NIH_011233
REL0000479948

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens
b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio
b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that

drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens
b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio
b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004258
MORENS_NIH_011238
REL0000479948

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article:
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of

rapid growth. “EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away,” NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter’s communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and “selected grantees” initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his “Gift” email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer’s email and timeline, saying in a statement: “NIH doesn’t comment on internal deliberation of grant awards.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004260
MORENS_NIH_011240
REL0000479948

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6 b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' b6 >; 'Gerald T Keusch' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' b6 'Roberts, Rich' b6 >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004263
MORENS_NIH_011243
REL0000479948

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004264
MORENS_NIH_011244
REL0000479948

Date:	Mon, 24 May 2021 6:58:58 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 24 May 2021 6:58:57 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Wpost: The vexing 'lab leak' theory on China and the coronavirus
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
To:	Gerald Keusch [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments:	image001.jpg

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: May 24, 2021 at 18:45:43 EDT
Subject: Wpost: The vexing 'lab leak' theory on China and the coronavirus

The vexing 'lab leak' theory on China and the coronavirus



By
Aaron Blake
Senior reporter
May 24, 2021 at 1:47 p.m. EDT

It has been said many times that Donald Trump's presidency was a stress test for democracy. And that's certainly true. (It's a reality that very much persists to this date.)

But it was also a stress test for those charged with covering it. What do you do when someone bulldozes so many political norms and unwritten rules of political discourse? How do you cover unfounded and specious allegations lodged not from some random Internet commenter, but from the most powerful man in the world? You can fact-check, but do you in the process inadvertently lend them credence? Do you call the claims "baseless" or "conspiracy theories?" Do you call them "lies," even if you can't 100 percent disprove them, or even if you don't know for sure that the person promoting them actually knows better?

It has become evident that some corners of the mainstream media overcorrected when it came to one particular theory from Trump and his allies: that the coronavirus emanated from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, rather than naturally.

It's also true that many criticisms of the coverage are overwrought and that Trump's and his allies' claims invited and deserved skepticism.

Evidence has increasingly pointed to the plausibility of the "lab leak" theory, which most scientists and the media (often citing those same scientists) originally downplayed or, in some cases, dismissed. The latest example is a Wall Street Journal report that cites U.S. intelligence that three workers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology became so ill in November 2019 — shortly before the virus was unleashed not just on Wuhan but eventually the world — that they required hospital care. This is unverified intelligence, but leading infectious-disease expert Anthony S. Fauci, who downplayed the lab leak theory in the past, was asked recently whether he was still confident about that, and he said, "No, actually." He urged further investigation.

The Washington Post editorial board, among others, have in recent weeks upped the demands for a fuller accounting of just how the virus began. In an instructive piece last week, former New York Times health reporter Donald G. McNeil Jr.,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019726
MORENS_NIH_039343
REL0000479950

who covered the virus extensively, wrote about his early skepticism of the lab leak theory and how he has warmed to it. Here are some relevant parts of his post on Medium:

We may never know. But the argument that it could have leaked out of the Wuhan Institute of Virology or a sister lab in Wuhan has become considerably stronger than it was a year ago, when the screaming was so loud that it drowned out serious discussion.

...

I had been skeptical of the "lab leak" theory because animal spillover is such an obvious answer. Genetics has proven that almost every disease mankind has faced jumped from animals: bubonic plague from rodents, measles probably from cows, whooping cough maybe from dogs, and so on.

Also, the leak idea was just too conveniently conspiratorial.

...

But the Occam's Razor argument — what's the likeliest explanation, animal or lab? — keeps shifting in the direction of the latter.

As McNeil notes, this is very much an open question. Many people are talking about the new evidence as if it comes close to proving the "lab leak" theory. It doesn't; it just renders it more plausible.

As for the allegations that this was underplayed? There is plenty of grist for that mill.

Media reports often referred to the idea that the virus leaked from a lab as "debunked." Others described such theories as "conspiracies" or "conspiracy theories." Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) was criticized in February 2020 for playing up the possibility of a lab leak, with reports citing the scientists who disbelieved or dismissed the theory. A CNN story cited a poll showing 30 percent of Americans believed a theory about a lab leak that was "almost certainly not true." Others, including some from The Washington Post, described the theories as "unsubstantiated."

One thing you'll see if you click on some of the links above or similar articles is that the text of the articles is often more circumspect. Few of them described the idea as definitively disproved, but rather cited the then-overwhelming scientific views at the time that there was little to no evidence to back them up.

In addition, the words "conspiracy" and "unsubstantiated" would indeed seem to apply, given such a leak would necessarily involve some kind of Chinese government coverup or a lack of actual, public evidence to prove the theory.

The phrase "conspiracy theory" became something of a fallback for covering Trump's and others' wild claims during his presidency; it doesn't rule out that there was indeed some kind of conspiracy involved that we might not know about.

Which brings us to Trump and his administration. For them, this wasn't some kind of conspiracy theory; they leaned into it — hard. They also did so while declining to provide evidence to back up their claims.

Trump began the process shortly after the virus made its way to the United States, as this helpful thread from The Fix's J.M. Rieger shows.

By late April and early May 2020, this became something amounting to the party line. Trump said at a news conference that he had a "high degree of confidence" that the virus originated in a Wuhan lab. This didn't jibe with a report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, though, which said that while that was a possibility, it needed further examination. When pressed on what evidence he had, Trump responded, "I can't tell you that. I'm not allowed to tell you that."

Trump at many other points suggested such a thing, without backing it up.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also leaned in. He told ABC News around the same time that "there's enormous evidence that this is where this began." He added: "I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan."

Except the "enormous" evidence wasn't produced by the Trump administration, for some reason. Nor was even piecemeal evidence.

And that's despite Trump very badly wanting to reinforce China's status as a boogeyman not just during the 2020 election, but also as the culprit for a coronavirus that was spreading and imperiling him politically. The conservative Wall Street Journal editorial board wrote an editorial shortly after both Trump's and Pompeo's comments calling for evidence of their claims. "If they don't want the issue to be dismissed as an anti-China campaign ploy, they should make the evidence public," the WSJ editorial board said.

Pompeo last week highlighted that ABC interview, claiming the interviewer, Martha Raddatz, "stopped just short of offering me a tin hat." The reality of the interview was very justifiable questioning about something for which we had seen little to no evidence. Raddatz merely pressed Pompeo about exactly what he was claiming might have happened.

Given how the Trump administration handled intelligence, there is very little doubt that, if some kind of proof had existed, Trump would have pushed hard for its release. Trump could have done so whenever he wanted. It never happened. The best evidence for it has emerged a year later, with Trump out of power.

Trump had every reason in his book to lay this at China's feet even more than the available evidence dictated. And that's not just because the "lab leak" theory more directly implied wrongdoing by China, but also because it was a necessary predicate to an even-more-conspiratorial theory: that this was some kind of bioweapon engineered by the Chinese. (Even if the virus did come from the Wuhan lab, that doesn't mean it was deliberately released. Doubts about the latter remain

significantly greater.)
Given everything we know about how Trump handled such things, caution and skepticism were invited. That (very much warranted) caution and skepticism spilled over into some oversimplification, particularly when it came to summarizing the often more circumspect reporting.
The problem in all of this is that we might never truly know the truth.

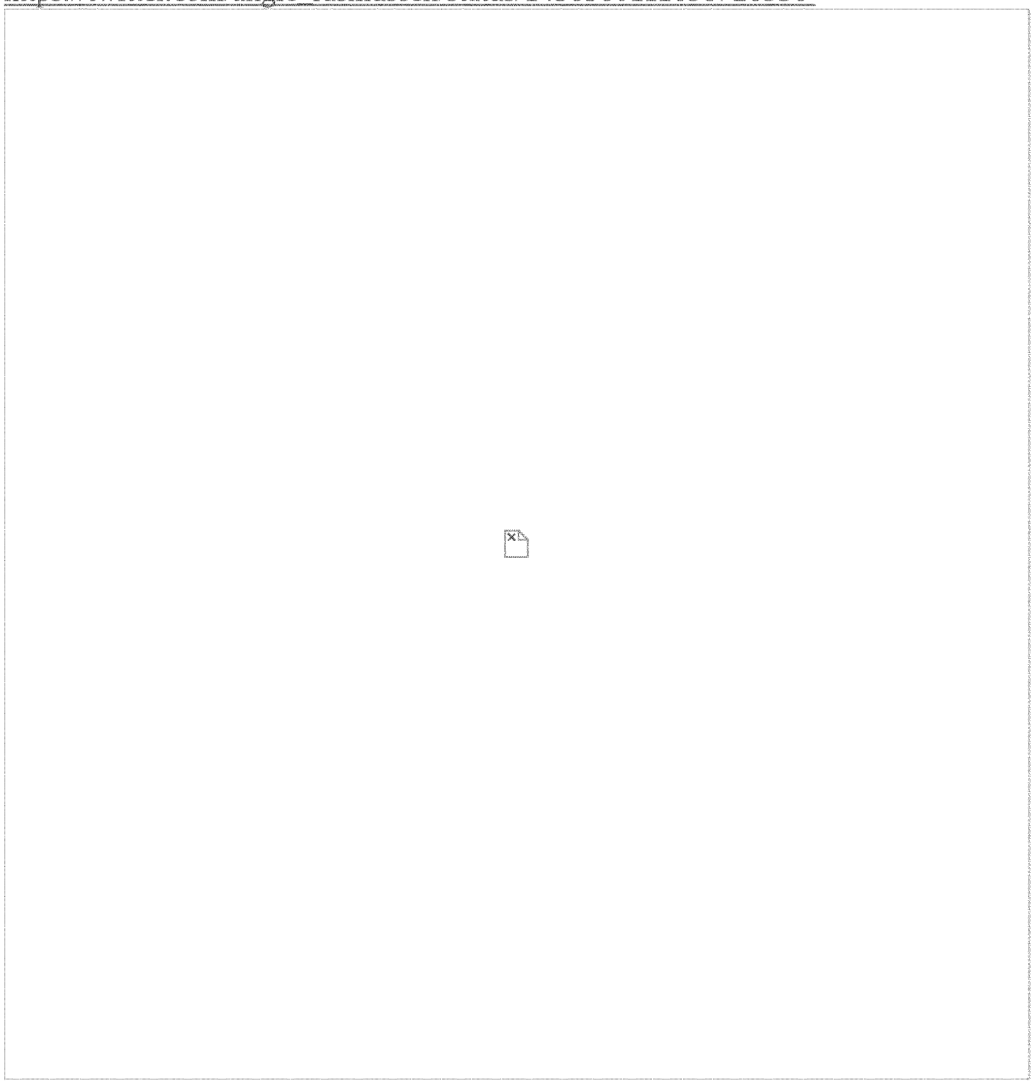
Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019728
MORENS_NIH_039345
REL0000479950

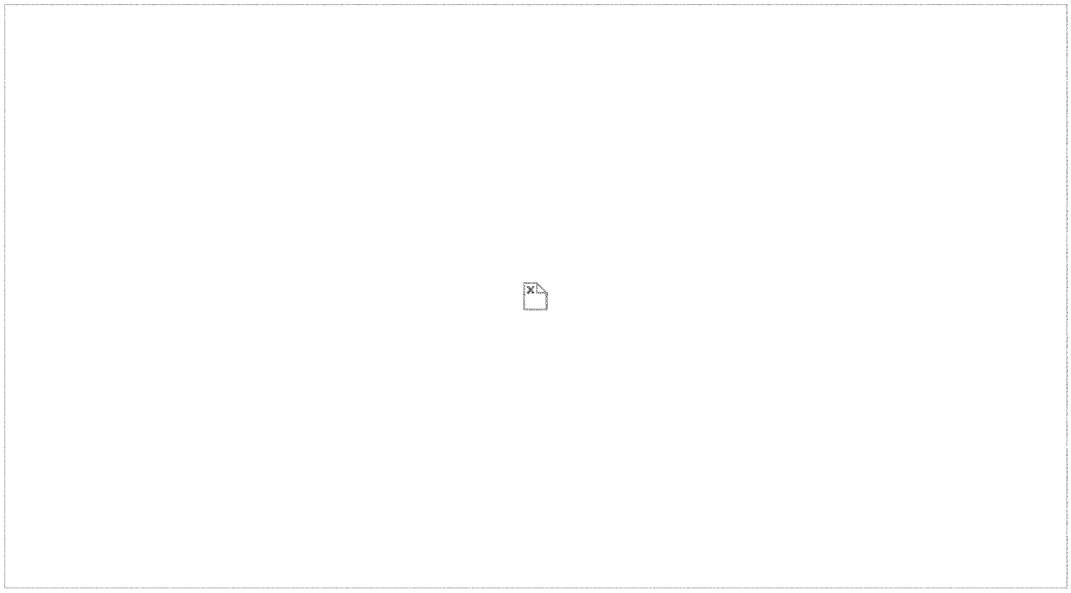
Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 12:23:25 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 12:23:13 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Intercept piece is now out.
From: "Rasmussen, Angie" b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Stephen Goldstein b6 Garry, Robert F b6 Peter Daszak b6 Kristian G. Andersen b6 Edward Holmes b6 Jason Gale b6 Robert Kessler b6

As a virologist, I say to hell with Jesse. He's a hypocrite and an embarrassment to the field.

https://twitter.com/angie_rasmussen/status/1436360111698726936



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022603
MORENS_NIH_043607
REL0000479951



Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: b6 b6
She/her
www.vido.org



On Sep 10, 2021, at 8:05 AM, David Morens b6 wrote:

Let's all remember that Vincent is sort of a curmudgeon/contrarian, he likes to argue against whatever idea is on the table at the moment. I had an argument with him on this very subject, on the phone, about a year ago. He argues tough but in the end is smart and more or less reasonable, in his opinionated way. After he has scored a few good hits. I wouldn't worry, i dont think he's the enemy.

By the wY, by what definition is Jesse a virologist? He's a computational grandstander without much biological knowledge. To bad, as his dad is a legitimate and good virologist. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 10, 2021, at 09:50, Stephen Goldstein b6 wrote:

Vincent is vocally in favor of GOF research so it wouldn't surprise me if he is saying this is GOF to make the point that such research is important. He also probably doesn't know the specific definition as Angie says. So a combination there I think.

Ralph published on SHC014 on the Urbani backbone so this is pretty much in line. That's a nasty spike in mice. He also generated the full length virus more recently.

Peter - sorry about all this, it really sucks. Wish there was more we all could do to alleviate but maybe this will be the last "revelation" and things will slowly die down.

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022604
MORENS_NIH_043608
REL0000479951

On Sep 10, 2021, at 8:53 AM, Rasmussen, Angie [b6] wrote:

This is such garbage. I explained to Mara at length why weight loss in transgenic mice and viral RNA cannot be used to assess pathogenicity and transmissibility in people. I also said that Alina specifically is a hobbyist with zero relevant experience and should not be trusted as a source. Not surprised that Mara wrote this but if "adjacent fields" includes Alina, that's all I need to know. And Jesse "As a Virologist" Bloom is clearly an outlier in our profession. 8/11 consulted suggests it was Chan, Bloom, Ebright, Relman, Lipsitch, etc and evidently Racaniello. If you ask mostly people who you know will say "yep, gain of function, shut it down" then of course you'll get a majority of "virologists and adjacent fields" confirming your thesis. It's shoddy journalism.

Vincent Racaniello was my PhD mentor and I have enormous respect for him, but that said, he doesn't work on anything that would ever remotely meet the criteria for P3CO oversight and this quote leads me to believe that he doesn't know what the NIH definition is. Also given that Mara completely blew past a NIH spokesperson saying it didn't meet the definition of P3 and left out all the context I provided about why this doesn't fit the definition, I also think it's possible Vincent was quoted out of context. Ugh. I'm sorry, Peter. This is a flaming pile of hot garbage, especially given what Bob points out below.

On Sep 10, 2021, at 05:45, Garry, Robert F [b6] wrote:

Just asking questions, but how are the exp described in Peter's grants somehow GoF and experiments here aren't? https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4915/12/9/987/htm

"We incorporated a membrane-anchored form of the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor binding domain (RBD) in place of the neuraminidase (NA) coding sequence in an influenza virus also possessing a mutation that reduces the affinity of hemagglutinin for its sialic acid receptor."
"The viral supernatant from reverse genetics was blind passaged twice in MDCK-SIAT1-TMPRSS2 cells at three-day intervals. Upon the final passage, the cytopathic effect was evident in the well containing ΔNA(RBD)-Flu, suggesting the presence of a replicating virus."

Glass house-stones?
""As a virologist, I personally think creating chimeras of SARS-related bat coronaviruses that are thought to pose high risk to humans entails unacceptable risks," said Jesse Bloom, who studies the evolution of viruses at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is a disease caused, like Covid-19, by an airborne coronavirus."

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 5:20 AM
To: Kristian G. Andersen [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie [b6]; Garry, Robert F [b6] Edward Holmes [b6] Jason Gale [b6] Robert Kessler [b6] Stephen Goldstein [b6]
Subject: RE: Intercept piece is now out.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Here's the last part of the story, with a really irritating quote from Alina Chan, who wants even more data to be released. At some point, there is no more private stuff for them to demand, unless they bring out the thought police to see if we were thinking of possibly doing GoF!:

Shifting Definitions, Growing Viral Load

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022605
MORENS_NIH_043609
REL0000479951

The humanized mouse experiment fits with the overall goal of the $3.1 million grant, which was titled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence" and aimed at preventing a pandemic by predicting the circumstances under which a bat coronavirus could evolve to infect humans. The researchers took an ambitious three-pronged approach: screening people with high exposure to wildlife, mathematical modeling, and lab experiments on viruses. Peter Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, has worked closely with scientists in China for years, and roughly $750,000 of the grant was allocated for the Wuhan Institute of Virology. An additional nearly $300,000 went to East China Normal University, where researchers did field sampling.

In a 2005 paper, Daszak's team showed that the first SARS virus originated in bats. Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, is caused by a coronavirus that emerged in 2012 and also believed to come from bats, which are now a prime target for virologists trying to understand and combat emerging diseases. Daszak has long maintained that his research is critical to preventing outbreaks.

But the research on the bat viruses in Wuhan showed that infecting live animals with altered viruses can have unpredictable consequences. A report to NIH on the project's progress in the year ending in May 2018 described scientists creating new coronaviruses by changing parts of WIV1 and exposing genetically engineered mice to the new chimeric viruses. Research published in 2017 in the journal PLOS Pathogen showed that, in cells in a laboratory, similar chimeric viruses reproduced less effectively than the original. NIH cited that research as one of the reasons the moratorium on gain-of-function research of concern didn't apply to this experiment. "It was a loss of function, not a gain of function," the email from NIH explained. (NIH also pointed out that the changes to the chimeric viruses "would not be anticipated to increase virulence or transmissibility in humans.")

Inside the lungs of the humanized mice, however, the novel viruses appear to have reproduced far more quickly than the original virus that was used to create them, according to a bar graph shown in the documents. The viral load in the lung tissue of the mice was, at certain points, up to 10,000 times higher in the mice infected with the altered viruses than in those infected with WIV1. According to Deatrick, the NIH spokesperson, the difference in the rates of viral

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022606
MORENS_NIH_043610
REL0000479951

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022607
MORENS_NIH_043611
REL0000479951

with the viruses and send the data to NIAID grant specialists, as well as to the Wuhan Institute of Virology biosafety committee. The enhanced growth of the chimeric coronaviruses in the humanized mice was, at one point, up to 4 log greater — or 10,000 times — the rate of the original virus. But there are no indications the research was stopped.

In fact, the bat coronavirus grant was renewed for a five-year period in 2019, although the Trump administration suspended funding in April 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and spiraling concerns about its origins. (Funding was later reinstated but under strict conditions that Daszak said were impossible for his group to meet.)

Kessler, EcoHealth Alliance's communications manager, also pointed to the fact that the grant was renewed in 2019 — after EcoHealth Alliance had twice submitted documents detailing the experiment — as evidence that the organization did nothing wrong. "If there had been any violations, they would not have done so," he said.

Long History of Controversy

The practice of making chimeric viruses in order to study how they might become more contagious was under scrutiny long before the pandemic. Proponents of such gain-of-function research argued that it can help virologists better understand and defend against natural outbreaks. But critics said that they were unreasonably dangerous.

In October 2014, the federal government put a moratorium on funding gain-of-function research on potential pandemic pathogens that could be "reasonably 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022608
MORENS_NIH_043612
REL0000479951

become known as the "lab leak theory," it lends the hypothesis credence, according to Stuart Newman, a professor of cell biology who directs the developmental biology laboratory at New York Medical College. "Making chimeric coronaviruses, mixing and matching RBDs [a part of the virus that allows it to attach to receptors] and spike proteins is exactly the scenario imagined by many lab-leak scenario proponents," said Newman. "The fact that this was an established research paradigm in the Wuhan lab … definitely makes the laboratory origin more plausible."

The documents about the research were released by NIH after The Intercept submitted a Freedom of Information Act request in September 2020, later suing to have it fulfilled. The request sought copies of these and other grant proposals that Daszak submitted to the agency, as well as the agency's communications about the proposals. NIH originally denied The Intercept's request on the grounds that releasing Daszak's proposals would undermine an ongoing investigation. Counsel for the agency later admitted that NIH had not reviewed many of the records before making that assertion.

"The contents of the grants raise serious questions about the review processes and oversight relating to risky pathogen research," said Alina Chan, a Boston-based scientist and co-author of the upcoming book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19." The new information in the documents warrants further inquiry into whether researchers may have omitted information about other concerning experiments, she said. "The question is: What else did they do in more recent years that we're not aware of?"

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022609
MORENS_NIH_043613
REL0000479951

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:09 AM
To: 'Kristian G. Andersen' [b6] 'David Morens' [b6]
Cc: 'Rasmussen, Angie' [b6]; 'Garry, Robert F' [b6] 'Edward Holmes' [b6] 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Robert Kessler [b6] 'Stephen Goldstein' [b6]
Subject: Intercept piece is now out.

Really appreciate you speaking out Angie. I just read the piece in the Intercept and it's very upsetting: https://theintercept.com/2021/09/09/covid- origins-gain-of-function-research/

What you said is correct – without evidence of ability to infect people, or transmit even from one animal to another, it can't possibly meet the NIH definition of GoF, which is now officially the P3CO definition as follows (from https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf):

> **Section II. Scope and Definitions For the purposes of this HHS P3CO Framework:**
>
> **A.** A potential pandemic pathogen (PPP) is a pathogen that satisfies both of the following:
>
> **1.** It is likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations; and
>
> **2.** It is likely highly virulent and likely to cause significant morbidity and/or mortality in humans.
>
> **B.** An enhanced PPP is defined as a PPP resulting from the enhancement of the transmissibility and/or virulence of a pathogen. Enhanced PPPs do not include naturally occurring pathogens that are circulating in or have been recovered from nature, regardless of their pandemic potential

How on any planet is a bat-CoV that's never been seen in people, "likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations"? It seems the 8 scientists that believed this to be GoF base it on one of the chimeras growing faster than the parental strain early on, while forgetting that 1) these are bat viruses have never been shown to infect people, or that, as you say Angie – the growth rates of the parental strain caught up with it by the end of the expt. I'm v. disappointed that Vincent Racaniello is one of these scientists – he should know better.

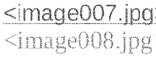
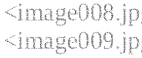
I'm hoping that more will speak out and point to the differences between their version of what GoF is, and the actual definition that we're all supposed to adhere to, and by the way that NIH uses as the agency of note to decide!

NIH DOCUMENTS

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022610
MORENS_NIH_043614
REL0000479951

PROVIDE NEW EVIDENCE U.S. FUNDED GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH IN WUHAN

U.S.-funded experiments in China posed biosafety risks but did not cause Covid-19 pandemic, scientists say.

Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl, Maia Hibbett
September 9 2021, 9:03 p.m.

DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY The Intercept contain new evidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the nearby Wuhan University Center for Animal Experiment, along with their collaborator, the U.S.-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, have engaged in what the U.S. government defines as "gain-of-function research of concern," intentionally making viruses more pathogenic or transmissible in order to study them, despite stipulations from a U.S. funding agency that the money not be used for that purpose.

Grant money for the controversial experiment came from the National Institutes of 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022611
MORENS_NIH_043615
REL0000479951

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022612
MORENS_NIH_043616
REL0000479951

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022613
MORENS_NIH_043617
REL0000479951

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022614
MORENS_NIH_043618
REL0000479951

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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022615
MORENS_NIH_043619
REL0000479951

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen [b6]
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:13 PM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Garry, Robert F [b6]; Edward Holmes <[b6]>; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Robert Kessler <[b6]>; Stephen Goldstein [b6]
Subject: Re: here's the latest line of attack today...

"she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up".

If she had in fact done that, she'd realize there'd be no news and no need for a second article - except to say "nothing to see here, move along".

Sigh.

On Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 4:28 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:

> Amen and good for you! You are right that Ebright and his ilk are not only NOT experts but are harmful demogogues. They need to be called out. Because i am in government i can only fo this off the record, but i have done do again and again. Some of them are knowingly promoting false equivalences. If they interviewed a Holocaust survivor, they would say they have to give equal time and space to a Nazi murderer. They have no shame. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Sep 9, 2021, at 18:40, Rasmussen, Angie [b6] wrote:
> >
> > Peter and all,
> >
> > I am so sorry you are still going through all of this. For what it's worth, I broke my rule of talking to disingenuous journalists and sent Mara Hvistendahl a long email telling her exactly what I think of the "experts" she's talked to and setting the record straight about what these FOIAd reports supposedly show. From what I can see, they show that you were reporting your work appropriately to NIH as required, the work itself was done in appropriate biocontainment, and, importantly, you didn't have SARS-CoV-2 or a progenitor. I also explained that previous work was published with WIV1 chimeras and that this type of study precludes doing more dangerous (and technically very difficult) virus isolation.
> >
> > She wanted to know whether I agreed with her two sources (likely Alina Chan or Richard Ebright, based on her prior story) that this fits the definition of GoF

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022616
MORENS_NIH_043620
REL0000479951

by NIH and I told her no and explained at length why not and the assertions that it was should disqualify any supposed "expert". Took every opportunity to dunk on their amateurish, disingenuous bullshit, while also emphasizing the importance of this work. Mara wrote back defensively, claiming she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up. I am not optimistic that the follow-up will be more balanced, but I did try to provide some juicy quotes about how her "experts" actually have no expertise, and emphasized the profound damage these people have done to this essential research. They make all of us less safe.

Hang in there. Ultimately the truth will come out and it's not going to be from the likes of the Daily Caller's inability to interpret virology data or from Jesse Bloom and all the grifters and conspiracy theorists populating the rabbit hole that he's crawled down.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: b6 b6
She/her
www.vido.org

<image011.png>

On Sep 9, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Peter Daszak <
b6
> wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth- alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

There's a good response from NIH: 'An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022617
MORENS_NIH_043621
REL0000479951

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. Let's also not forget that the virus with a higher viral load in mice was actually because it had the spike protein of a bat virus being flown around every night by tens of thousands of bats in rural china – not something new created by us to enhance virulence - In fact, the opposite: the fact that we could do this work with a chimera means that we don't have to isolate and culture every single new bat cov we find. It reduces risk!

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP

Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show

<image003.jpg>

<image007.jpg>

-
-
-
-

ANDREW KERRINVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

September 09, 20213:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times 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."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022618
MORENS_NIH_043622
REL0000479951

"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.
In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.
Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.
EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.
"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."
"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.
EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.
<image005.jpg>
Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)
"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."
The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.
"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.
EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.
EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.
Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.
Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022619
MORENS_NIH_043623
REL0000479951

tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.

The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. **(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)**

Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.

The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.

Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.

<image006.jpg>

NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)

An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."

"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."

Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation is available without charge to any eligible news publisher that can provide a large audience. For licensing opportunities of our original content, please contact licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org .

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:29 PM
To: 'Garry, Robert F' b6 'Kristian G. Andersen' < b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 ; 'Edward Holmes' < b6 >; 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6 >; 'Stephen Goldstein' b6
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom – I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work – it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022621
MORENS_NIH_043625
REL0000479951

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Kristian G. Andersen <b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Edward Holmes <b6>; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie <b6>; Robert Kessler <b6>; Stephen Goldstein <b6>
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying…

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Anderser <b6
Cc: David Morens <b6>, Robert Garry <b6, Edward Holmes <b6>, Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, "Rasmussen, Angie" <b6>, Robert Kessler <b6>, Stephen Goldstein <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022622
MORENS_NIH_043626
REL0000479951

that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022623
MORENS_NIH_043627
REL0000479951

Cc: David Morens [b6] Garry, Robert F < [b6] Edward Holmes [b6] Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie [b6] >; Robert Kessler [b6] ; Stephen Goldstein < [b6]

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak < [b6] > wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.
15h
NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release
<image001.jpg>

New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com

<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.
15h The full documents are here: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence" https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989- understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988- risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…
<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.
7h
There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022625
MORENS_NIH_043629
REL0000479951

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Garry, Robert F b6 ; Kristian G. Andersen < b6 Edward Holmes b6 Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; b6 Robert Kessler b6
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 < b6 wrote:
>
> To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.
>
> The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.
>
> Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.
>
> Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen <k b6 Edward Holmes < b6
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net> b6 b6 b6 b6 b6
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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes b6 >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022627
MORENS_NIH_043631
REL0000479951

Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; b6 b6 b6

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:02:29 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:41 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Rich Roberts b6

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C80dd108fa6e144347c7a08db8a0c2eda%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=qh3C%2FzGyW5JNRrsv5Snu9TcRzbfQJPUrR6C5pvcOBok%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C80dd108fa6e144347c7a08db8a0c2eda%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=988CSFKBcpJV0rkSMGBeASu%2BKPUqJdQEfsnIIvy6%2FLU%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 21 Dec 2021 9:36:19 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 21 Dec 2021 9:34:15 AM -0500
Subject: RE: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.png

I think this has been one of my biggest irritations throughout all of this, that Francis Collins ducks under the radar of the Republican's ire because they're so focused on Tony F., him being on TV daily and so effective with it. Meanwhile, when I look back on one of the worst years of my life, it all points back to a single day in April 2020 when Trump asked NIH to cancel our grant, and put us right in the global spotlight, and Francis conceded. That single act of allowing politics to dump on science should be the legacy he's remembered for, and like you Jerry, I'll be regularly saying that I expect for the rest of my career. To make that stick, it needs to be used as a primary exemplar of how not to deal with efforts at political interference. It's the polar opposite of what some brave agency people did under Trump, and what others did under Nixon. What's the point in having a red line if you don't do the decent thing when it's crossed.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 10:34 AM
To: David Morens [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: RE: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

Shameful to the end. Where the fuck has he been all along? He is still at risk of reputational damage, and I will do whatever I can however long it takes to bring that to reality.

I will be speaking to Tony later this afternoon and I will be asking/urging/hoping he will help put a rod up Victor Dzau's back – by whatever route he chooses – to dismiss the allegations that Peter has violated the code of behavior of the National Academy of Medicine.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Fwd: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don 't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <b6>
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 9:48 AM
Subject: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
To: <b6>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 7:27 AM
Subject: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

Fox News Flash
Published 13 hours ago

Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

New polls finds 72% of Americans believe COVID-19 originated in Wuhan lab

By Yael Halon | Fox News

Retiring NIH director Dr. Francis Collins joined 'Fox News Sunday' to discuss the latest information regarding the omicron variant.

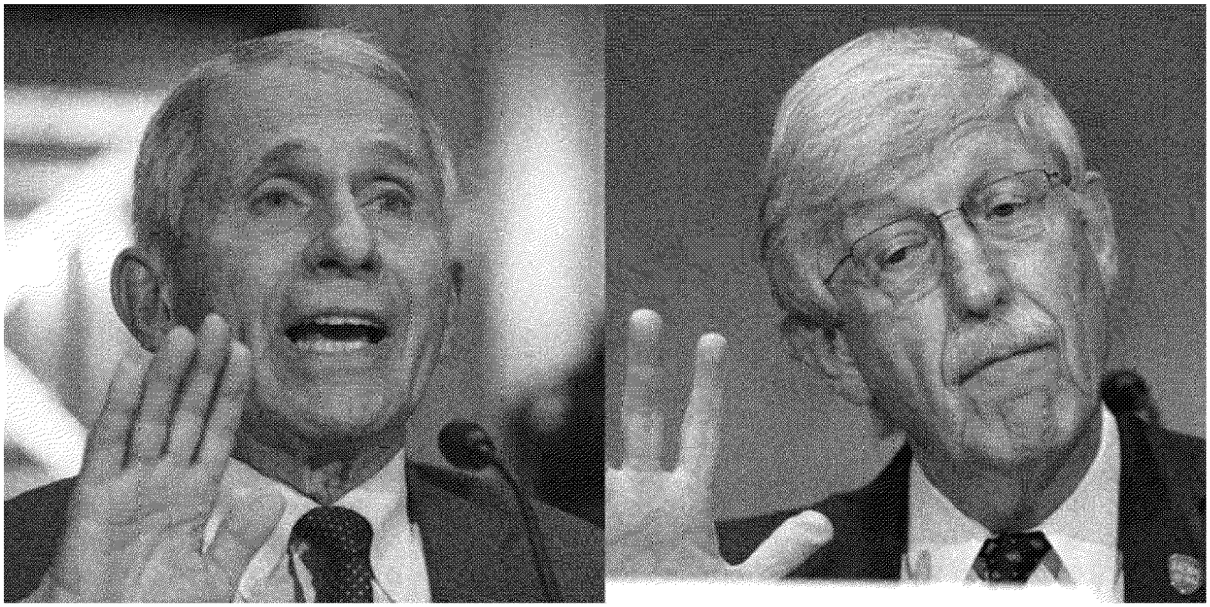
Outgoing National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins told Fox News on Sunday that he's "sorry" the Wuhan lab-leak theory has become such a "huge distraction" for the country, despite there being "no evidence" to support it.

Collins joined "Fox News Sunday" on his last day in office after more than a decade in the agency's top position. The geneticist and physician tapped by President Barack Obama to lead the NIH in 2009 dodged questions about his efforts to discredit the lab-leak theory at the onset of the pandemic, maintaining the most plausible explanation is that the virus spread through animal-to-human transmission.

"I'm really sorry that the lab leak has become such a distraction for so many people because frankly, we still don't know," Collins told host Bret Baier.

MEDIA FACT- CHECKERS, FACEBOOK CITED WUHAN LAB-LINKED SCIENTIST TO KNOCK DOWN LAB LEAK THEORY

"There is no evidence really to say. Most of the scientific community, myself included, think that is a possibility, but far more likely, this was a natural way in which a virus left a bat, maybe traveled through some other species and got to humans."



WASHINGTON, DC - JULY 20: Top infectious disease experts Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, on Capitol Hill. (J. Scott Applewhite-Pool/Getty Images; Greg Nash- Pool/Getty Images)

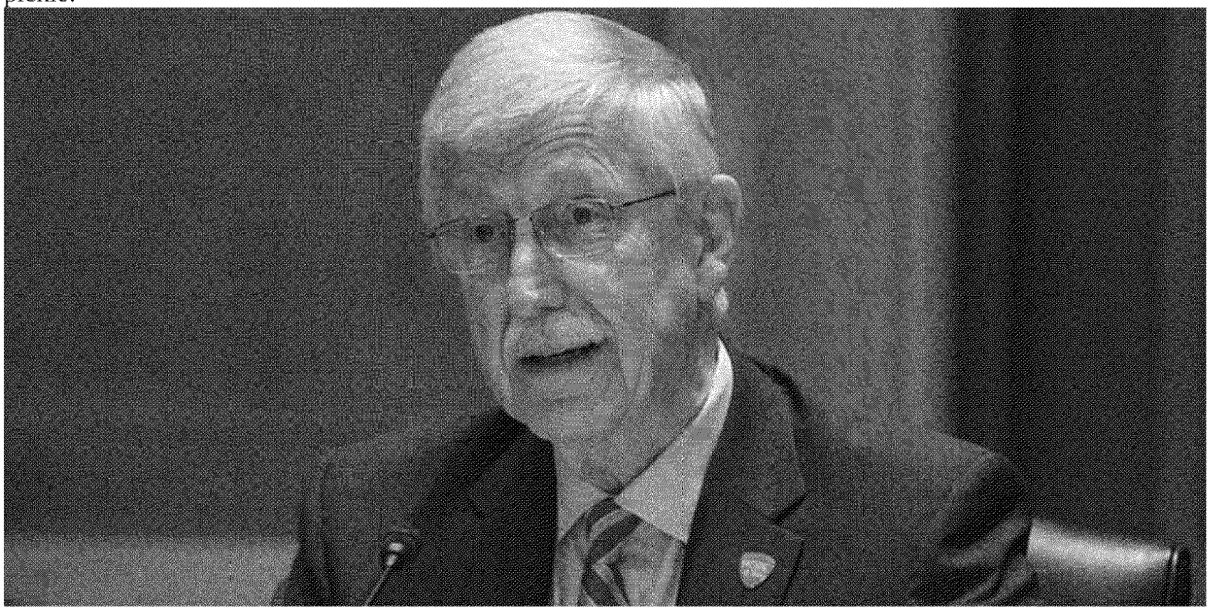
Collins said in October of this year that accusations surrounding the agency's involvement in gain-of-function research and the Wuhan Institute of Virology had "absolutely" nothing to do with his resignation.

Still, emails released by BuzzFeed that reveal private correspondence between Collins and Dr. Anthony Fauci suggest a deliberate effort to downplay theories that the coronavirus originated in the Wuhan lab and, whether deliberately or inadvertently, their funding had any involvement.

"We won't know unless China decides to open up on this which they have not done, and shame on them for that," Collins said, reiterating that "this has been a huge distraction" for the scientific community.

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE COVID-19 LEAKED FROM WUHAN LAB, POLL FINDS

"We in this country have somehow gotten all fractured into a hyperpolarized politicized view that never should have been mixed with public health," Collins said. "It has been ruinous and history will judge harshly those people who have continued to defocus the effort and focus on conspiracies and things that are demonstrably false. Shame on all us that we've gotten into this kind of pickle."



National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins testifies before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee looking into the budget estimates for National Institute of Health (NIH) and the state of medical research on Capitol Hill, May 26, 2021 in Washington, D.C. (Sarah Silbiger-Pool/Getty Images)

Collins made headlines on Friday after the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis released an email where he

expressed deep concerns about the herd immunity strategy being advocated by "fringe epidemiologists," and called for "a quick and devastating published takedown" of the three experts promoting the herd immunity strategy known as "The Great Barrington Declaration."

Collins told Baier that he is "not going to apologize," for his words, arguing that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"I did write that, and I will stand by that," Collins said. "Basically, these fringe epidemiologists who really did not have the credentials to be making such a grand sweeping statement, were saying just let the virus run through the population and eventually then everybody would have had it and everything will be okay."



A man walks through a deserted part of Johannesburg's OR Tambo's airport in South Africa. The World Health Organization urged countries around the world not to impose flight bans on southern African nations due to concern over the new omicron variant. (AP/Jerome Delay)

The United States recently surpassed 50 million COVID-19 cases and 800,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Despite the staggering numbers, Collins maintained that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"So I'm sorry I was opposed to that, I still am, and I'm not going to apologize for it," he said.

CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP

As for the new omicron variant, Collins said the U.S. should brace for a "world of trouble" the next couple of months, based on its higher transmissibility than the previous strains, which "pale by comparison."

Baier pointed to recent data out of South Africa that could point to milder symptoms and fewer hospitalizations from omicron.

"I am hopeful that that is an indication that while incredibly contagious, this virus may be a bit less likely to make people sick," Collins said, "and obviously that is something we have got to hope for, or our health systems are going to be overwhelmed."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Mon, 23 Jan 2023 7:53:41 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 23 Jan 2023 7:50:14 PM -0500
Subject: Great Op Ed in Washington Post by David Quammen
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Gerald Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 Jeff Sturchio b6

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.

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015132
MORENS_NIH_031590
REL0000479966

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6g >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6 Gerald Keusch <b6 ; Aleksei Chmura <b6 g >; Rich Roberts <b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <b6
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 <b6 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*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015133
MORENS_NIH_031591
REL0000479966

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Cc: Gerald Keusch <b6 Peter Daszak <b6 >; Aleksei Chmura <
b6 g >; Rich Roberts b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

Yes, i think we are all surprised about not filling the nih director position

My guess is that it is not high on the WH radar screen, and that it would just he picking another fight with the right wing nut jobs. Maybe they figure scientists know what they are doing even without political puppeteers. Who knows? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:42, Hotez, Peter Jay <b6 > wrote:

I probably won't do that. If there was a groundswell of interest I would consider it, but my science is going well here, and for now they are not running me out of Texas. Although that could change on a dime as well. I'm surprised the White House has no urgency to fill the NIH Director's slot.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015134
MORENS_NIH_031592
REL0000479966

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:34 AM, David Morens b6 wrote:

PS, this may sound cynical, but by applying and letting it be known publicly, you could force them from pursuing a cover up selection

There is much concern here that a poorly qualified nih or other candidate could be selected under the radar. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:31, David Morens b6 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 b6 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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 9:23 AM, David Morens b6 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 [b6] wrote:

Thanks for the thoughtful note David, in terms of moving forward with your plan, a couple of things to keep in mind:

The GOP House Oversight and Judiciary Committees each headed by Freedom Caucus members will begin their investigative hearings this year. While Biden is the major target at some point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.

NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?

Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano [b6] | Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]

b6

iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 8:39 AM, David Morens < b6 > 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015139
MORENS_NIH_031597
REL0000479966

Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 1:33:23 PM -0400

Sent: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 1:33:20 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Confidential - WHO international team members have a commentary coming out in tomorrow's Nature

From: "Garry, Robert F" [b6]>

To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

CC: David Morens [b6]>; Jason Gale [b6]>; [b6] [b6] [b6] Kristian Andersen [b6]>;

Thanks appreciated – and well done!

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 at 11:54 AM
To: Robert Garry [b6]>, "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]>, Jason Gale [b6] [b6] " [b6] >, [b6]" [b6]>, Kristian Andersen [b6]>
Subject: Confidential - WHO international team members have a commentary coming out in tomorrow's Nature

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Just as an FYI (Jason – this is "off-the-record") – we have a commentary in Nature that's under embargo until Wednesday 25th August 11am Eastern. I expect reporters will be contacting you about it, and wanted to let you see it first.

I've attached it here so you can see what we're saying – it's carefully worded to be as apolitical and non-controversial as possible. It was written as a response to the WHO DG deciding to move from the previous plan of the Phase 1 group continuing its work into Phase 2, to the current call for a new structure and a focus on the lab leak/audit. Our major concerns are that this will (has!) stalled progress, and the key messages from our point of view are that:

- the search for the origins is important and needs to continue
- since our report, we feel that most attention has gone to debates regarding likelihood of a lab leak, at the cost of progress in other areas
- we should all be concerned that time passing - in part owing to these discussions – and this could close the window of opportunity for some critical studies
- there are critical issues to deal with that are laid out in the report as recommendations for Phase 2: tracking back from the market, following new leads from the recent paper on mammals in the market, representative wild animal and farmed wild animal surveys, and comparative serosurveys in all regions where there has been evidence of early circulation.
- the lab audit - as added- will need to be developed to define questions. The smallpox audit example cited by WHO in their press addresses biosafety and biosecurity for that pathogen, but would not necessarily help identify evidence for a lab leak. Developing those studies, and agreeing them with China may take of lot of time and that these should not lead to further delays for the other recommended studies

I'm trying to stay out of publicity as much as possible, but hope you are being asked to comment and will do so!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net > b6
b6
Subject: Re: Use this thread to respond! Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

Thank you Peter - I think this week is going to be a critical week for science. Bob G

Sent from my iPhone
On Aug 23, 2021, at 7:24 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.
>
> Hi all – just catching up with emails after a few days off and wanted to make sure you don't get caught out in FoIAs – Above is David Morens' gmail address that's not Foia-ble. Also I've taken Peter Ben Embarek and Maria Van Kerkhove off this email chain in case they were put on accidentally, and so no one gets caught out criticizing them!
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: [b6]; [b6] Garry, Robert F [b6]
Subject: Re: Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

TY, i think this is different from the article in The Economist a week or two ago? That one was interesting as i recall.,.. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2021, at 03:08, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

In case you missed it, FYI.
Seems to lay things out well. I feel sorry for the int'l team. They didn't decide on/agree to the terms of reference, so the response from the DG on the final report (which he waited for until weighing in) seems disingenuous to me.

From: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 16:40:56 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

> "The virus mystery" broadcast on August 12th, drew uncommonly wide attention for a Danish television documentary. That was because it featured Peter Ben Embarek, an expert on food security and zoonotic diseases, casting doubt on the conclusions of a "joint study" on the origins of the covid-19 pandemic carried out earlier this year under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (who). Dr Ben Embarek was the senior who figure who went to China as part of that study.
> In March the joint study reported that it was "extremely unlikely" that the virus had been released in a laboratory accident. Dr Ben Embarek revealed that this conclusion did not come from a balanced assessment of all the relevant evidence but from a steadfast refusal by the Chinese members of the joint study to support anything stronger. Indeed they only allowed even that minimal assessment on the condition that the report did not call for further investigation into the question. He also pointed out that the idea that the point of spillover was someone collecting bat samples for research purposes belongs in the "likely" basket, along with other human interactions with wild bats.
> Problems in the joint study had long been clear. Within the
> who one source describes it as "riddled with compromises and sloppiness". Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the
> who's director-general, was uneasy about the way it was carried out. He pushed back at the marginalisation of the lab-leak hypothesis, particularly when the final report was released in March. He has since called for further investigations into it, as well as into other possibilities.

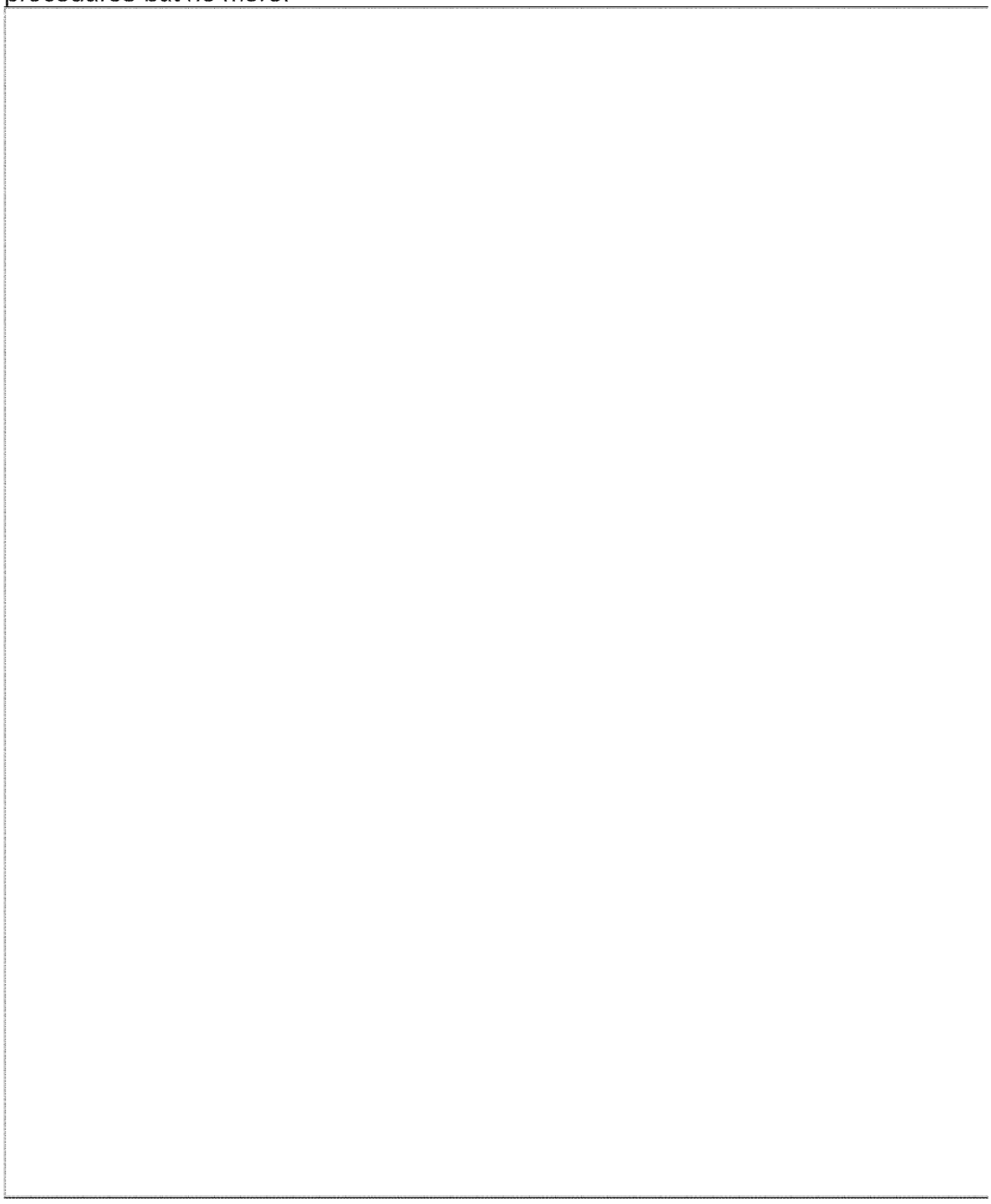
MORENS_SUBPOENA_021888
MORENS_NIH_042770
REL0000479972

The further unravelling of the joint study matters because, more than a year and a half after the covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan, a city in Hubei, was first recognised as the work of a new pathogen, there has been nothing like a thorough international investigation of how that pathogen,
sars-cov-2, got into humans and spread round the world. The pandemic's death toll stands at 9m-18m, according to a model which *The Economist* has built on the basis of excess-mortality reports and other indicators. The question of how it started matters both for the relatives of the dead and for those who wish to prevent such an outbreak happening again. China's efforts to stop the world from answering it are both shabby and, to an extent, self-defeating. The more the truth seems hidden, the more it seems suspicious.
Earnest calls for an international investigation into the origins of covid-19 began in April 2020, voiced most clearly by Scott Morrison, the prime minister of Australia. The next month the World Health Assembly, the gathering of government representatives which serves as the
who's decision-making body, passed a motion calling for a study into the origins of the pandemic. But in order to be acceptable to China—which had reacted furiously to Mr Morrison's original suggestion—the work was set up as a joint research project between two teams of scientists, one Chinese, one international. And it was to be based on "scientific and collaborative field missions", rather than a targeted and forensic inquiry into all the relevant circumstances.
The terms of reference, which were subsequently negotiated behind closed doors, allowed the Chinese hosts to frame the joint study's work in the way which best suited them. The study was set up to build on pre-existing Chinese research, not to delve into unvetted data. Investigating the laboratories that had been working with coronaviruses like
sars-cov-2 in Wuhan was not part of its terms of reference.
After a lot of wrangling, the international team got to China in January this year. Data about the first reported covid-19 cases, those from December 2019, were one subject of friction with their hosts. The Chinese had reported 174 such cases, but would not share the underlying data on which those reports were based. Hearing that these vital data were not being made available worried Dr Tedros enough that he lobbied the Chinese government for access. The authorities declined, citing concerns over citizens' privacy. It could have been anonymised.
Elsewhere the team appears to have been knowingly misled. Take, for example, the live-animal trade at the Huanan seafood and wildlife market, a site associated with a number of Wuhan's earliest recorded cases of covid-19. In its final report, the study group took at face value claims there was no credible evidence that live mammals were sold there in 2019. A lot of eyewitness accounts gainsay that; so does a study published in *Scientific Reports*, a journal, this summer.

One report and no more

The *Scientific Reports* paper found that 18 species of mammal had been for sale in Wuhan between May 2017 and November 2019; gunshot wounds and trapping injuries suggested that almost a third of them were taken from the wild. Although the paper was published only recently, it was submitted to the journal in October 2020. Chinese law requires that all covid-19 research be reviewed by the government before it is sent to a journal. Some Chinese authorities would have known of its contents before the team arrived.
The market is not the only way for animals and the pathogens they carry to get into Wuhan. The horseshoe bats in which the closest wild relatives to
sars-cov-2 have been found do not live anywhere near the city, but the two laboratories there that were known to have engaged in coronavirus research received samples from bat caves around the country. The joint-study team was not

allowed to investigate the procedures around, or documentation of, this research; when it visited the laboratories the team was shown presentations on safety procedures but no more.



When the researchers left Wuhan the
who
's Geneva headquarters told them that their report needed to be laid out scientifically and could express dissenting opinions; the international members and the Chinese members did not have to reach a consensus. However, according to sources within the
who
, the team felt committed to producing a joint report with their Chinese counterparts. Dr Tedros was so unhappy with what finally emerged from the processes that he

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021890
MORENS_NIH_042772
REL0000479972

nobbled the report as it left the starting blocks, rejecting its contention that the possibility of a lab leak needed no further investigation.

On May 26th President Joe Biden ordered America's intelligence services to report on the pandemic's origins in 90 days (time will be up on August 24th). When he and his fellow
g7
leaders met in June they joined in calling for a timely, transparent and science-based follow-up study. On July 16th Dr Tedros laid out the next steps which the
who
wants to see taken. They include further work on the Wuhan animal markets, studies of early cases and audits of local laboratories.

The Chinese government has reacted angrily to the idea of further studies on its territory. Zeng Yixin, the vice-minister of China's National Health Commission, said he was "shocked" by the plan to investigate a lab leak, saying it was "impossible" to accept. According to the *Global Times*, a tub-thumping tabloid run by the Communist Party, 55 countries have sent written complaints about the proposal for further investigations to the
who
. Dr Tedros, elected director-general with China's support in 2017 and derided by President Donald Trump as China's puppet, may now face a Chinese-backed candidate when he looks for reappointment later this year.

In the absence of any hope that China will co-operate, sources of data beyond its control have become increasingly important. One area of interest is genetic sequence data. Another is early cases exported from China.

See what you did there

An online open-source-intelligence group which calls itself
drastic
has been scouring sequencing data to get insight into activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (wiv). When researchers publish sequences they typically post the raw data from which those sequences are assembled to public databases such as the sequence-read archive at America's National Centre for Biotechnology Information. Contamination events in the laboratory, or within sequencing machines themselves, mean these data sometimes contain sequences not meant to be there. In theory such evidence could reveal nefarious goings-on.

Such work, while promising, takes a lot of resources. If you have the sort of supercomputers available to America's national labs it gets easier. Gilles Demaneuf, a data scientist who works with
drastic
, says he has a hunch the American intelligence community's 90-day study is working the same angle. It is conceivable that the intelligence services might have been able to filch raw sequence reads directly from Chinese sequencing machines, thus picking up even more data.

Sequencing data only offers a way forward if the virus did indeed leak out of a lab, something which remains a possibility but which is far from proven. The study of early cases should be useful whatever route it took; the closer you get to understanding the when and where of the crossing-over from animal to human, the easier it should be to learn something of the how.

On the basis of information provided by China the joint study concluded it was unlikely for there to have been any substantial transmission in Wuhan before December 2019. That is unlikely to be true. For one thing the *South China Morning Post*, a newspaper based in Hong Kong, obtained government documents in 2020 which showed one to five new cases a day in Wuhan from November 17th 2019 onwards. Further evidence has strengthened the possibility that the virus could have

been in circulation much earlier than the official story allows.

That circulation need not have been limited to China. There is increasing evidence suggesting early infections elsewhere. These cases would have been exported from China; no virologists doubt that Hubei was where the virus got going within humans. But if circulation in Hubei goes back further than thought and cannot be directly assessed through studies there, the presence of cases elsewhere offers an alternative way to get an idea of the timing. If a specific travel link were identified, that might help identify a group in Hubei which was infected early on.

A recent study of blood samples from 9,144 adults in 12 different regions of France found seven which contained antibodies against sars-cov-2, all of them taken in November 2019. An Italian lung-cancer screening trial has found samples taken in September 2019 which seem to contain anti-sars-cov-2 antibodies. Another antibody study suggests the virus was circulating at a low level in northern Italy at the same time, notably in Lombardy, a region which has close connections to Wuhan through the garment trade, and saw Europe's first major outbreak of covid-19 in March 2020.

Antibody tests can give false positives. In a preprint published on August 6th by the *Lancet*, researchers in Lombardy reported on looking instead for sars-cov-2 gene sequences. Examining 289 swabs and urine tests taken from people who had presented with a rash as far back as the second half of 2019, they found sars-cov-2 sequences in 13, the earliest of which was taken on September 12th.

Sudhir Kumar of Temple University in Philadelphia says the *Lancet* preprint is likely to inspire other investigators to go back and look at retrospective hospital samples. That should help his own research into the origins of the virus. A family tree Dr Kumar and his colleagues have built from vast numbers of published sars-cov-2 genomes allows them to predict the sequence of the progenitor virus from which they are all descended. This sequence differs in three places from that found in the earliest samples taken from patients in Wuhan, meaning there had been enough spread for a certain amount of viral mutation to take place before December. Dr Kumar says that an analysis of the Lombardy sequences suggests that the timeline for the origin of the virus in China might now extend back to the late summer.

More systematic international research into these early infections and their circumstances is needed. Maria Van Kerkhove, head of emerging diseases and zoonoses at the who, suggests it may be possible to prioritise work in areas which saw the earliest outbreaks in America, France, Italy and Spain. "I think the floodgates will open one day," says Dr Kumar.

A last line of light

An early origin would fit with the timeline that lab-leak proponents tend to favour. Early this August, the minority Republican staff on the House foreign-affairs committee released an 84-page report arguing this case. It makes much of a small but deadly disease outbreak which took place at an abandoned copper mine in Yunnan in 2012. As drastic showed last year, a virus studied at WIV which had been taken from that mine is the closest known relative to sars-cov-2.

The report sees importance in the removal, on September 12th 2019, of a database containing details of sequences and samples from the wiv. This is read as the beginning of a cover-up, and thus as the point when the authorities first knew something had gone amiss, arguing for a leak in late August or early September. The wiv

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021892
MORENS_NIH_042774
REL0000479972

says it was a response to cyber-attacks.
A leak is not the only research-related possibility. The first person infected could have been someone employed by the
wiv
or another lab to collect bats and samples—the prospect to which Dr Ben Embarek pointed in his television interview. And it is important to remember that some other form of spillover outside the lab, either directly from a bat or by way of some other species, may well be to blame.
China clearly does not want lab-leaks investigated; but that does not mean it knows one happened. It is also being misleading about Huanan market, denying access to early-case data and obfuscating in various other non-lab-leak-specific ways. The most obvious explanation is that it does not really want any definitive answer to the question. An unsanitary market, a reckless bat-catcher or a hapless spelunker would not be as bad in terms of blame as a source in a government laboratory. But any definite answer to the origin question probably leaves China looking bad, unless it can find a way to blame someone else. To that end China has called for an investigation of Fort Detrick in Maryland, historically the home of American bioweapons research; state media regularly publish speculations about its involvement.
The possibility of spillover from wild bats does not have to be studied in China. Yunnan abuts onto Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, and bats are not sticklers in matters of territory. Samples taken outside China could provide a good idea of viral diversity the other side of the border. A thorough evaluation of the existing farm-animal and wildlife trade in the region would also be useful.
Yet there is an inherent risk in such work that needs to be considered. Efforts to uncover the roots of covid-19 by seeking out a natural reservoir of something very like
sars-cov-2 would, by definition, expose people to the sort of risks that can seed pandemics. Ironically, the very possibility of a lab leak raises questions about how most safely to pursue investigations into other possibilities.

When he called for further inquiries in July, Dr Tedros also announced the formation of a new permanent group of pathogen hunters, the International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens (sago). He wants it to organise further studies of
sars-cov-2. But it will also need to look at more general questions for the future—such as how to be sure that, come what may, studies of pathogens involved in past disease outbreaks never create further outbreaks of their own.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 14:34:52 UTC+8:00
To: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

I saw. But it's behind a paywall. U have full access?

From: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/23/21 16:23:52 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Fwd:Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021893
MORENS_NIH_042775
REL0000479972

icymi

From: b6 At: 08/22/21 15:23:17 UTC+8:00
To: Paul Geitner (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'

The Economist | Putting it all together

https://www.economist.com/international/2021/08/19/the-world-needs-a-proper-investigation-into-how-covid-19-started?frsc=dg%7Ce

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 1:27:14 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 1:26:36 PM -0400

Subject: Zoom tomorrow Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6] >;

CC: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Cc'ng Douglas Soriano to determine availability. Fyi I spoke on science and scientists under attack for my Rockefeller Univ lecture last night for their "Insight Series". People like Rick Lifton, Barry Coller, Charlie Rice, Jeff Friedman are all in, in case that's useful.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 13, 2022, at 10:37 AM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]
Jeff Sturchio [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

I spoke with Richard Lifton, Charlie Rice, Michel Nussenzweig, Jeff Friedman, Cory Bargmann today about this at my Rockefeller Univ visit. They are starting to get it. In the meantime, maybe we should express our concerns to Victor?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 4:52 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > 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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007208
MORENS_NIH_016374
REL0000479976

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens < [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: Peter Daszak < [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens < [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <j [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007209
MORENS_NIH_016375
REL0000479976

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <b6
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: b6
Cc: Kim, Se <b6
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

The information contained in this transmission is confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email

immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 12:47:53 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 12:47:50 PM -0400
Subject: Re: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6
CC: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

I got a call from Drew Hinshaw at the WSJ for an interview on Tedros call for investigation of the lab origin story. It looks like we will talk in the morning.

Do either of you know him and how he approaches a story? Good guy or one to be wary of?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 7, 2021, at 12:42 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:
>
> To add to that – another damaging article in the New York Times today.
>
> https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/07/health/coronavirus- lab-leak-who.html
>
> Please read the details and at the end the comment from Jamie Metzl – these people are lining up to shut down scientific research on viruses in wildlife – that's the exact opposite of what we'll need to do if we want to be prepared for the next pandemic.
>
> I can't fight this fight on my own – I'm cited in this article as usual, along with Marion Koopmans – both of us under daily attack from these conspiracists. We need bigger and louder voices fighting against this movement before it starts to do damage to scientific research.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: b6
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017980
MORENS_NIH_036803
REL0000479982

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:25 AM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <[b6]>; 'Roberts, Rich[b6]; 'Keusch, Jerry' <[b6]
Subject: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
Importance: High

Just read your email about being allowed to do interviews on the WHO report David. Interesting and disappointing. Clearly the issue of COVID origins is not the political problem – it's the WHO report that's the problem. It's quite telling really, that the Biden Admin decided the WHO report would be a political football and therefore NSC/White House agenda, not a scientific issue and therefore NIH/NIAID agenda.

This is a symptom of a bigger issues – over the last 2-4 weeks, all of the allies who would normally talk to reporters about the science have either been silenced/sidelined, or are following a political agenda, e.g. the White House, the WHO Director-General (who single-handedly threw the whole WHO expert team under the bus), the former CDC director, and now NIAID – all following the political line.

The attacks reached a crescendo over this same period with daily op-eds in NY Post, WSJ, Daily Caller and other Right Wing papers bleeding over into CNN and even NPR. My Board are now beginning to get concerned and this puts me personally in a very difficult position – it's a risk to my job, my family's security, and my career. It's not a real problem yet – if the attacks die down a bit (which I believe they will), and if my Board continue to support me (I believe they will), the long game will win out.

But at this point I'm reaching out to call for help! Can we line up some allies who will help speak publicly about the science here on wildlife-to-human spillover vs. lab leak? Critically, there is still no evidence at all that a lab leak occurred, there is also no evidence at all that EcoHealth (or NIAID) funded or supported Gain-of-function work in China. Likewise, stories about EcoHealth 'hiding' DoD funding, being funded by China, not clearly indicating the source of funding on all public documents, etc. etc. are false and/or misleading. Still, the damage is being done and I'm worried that today the momentum is with the conspiracists.

Any and all ideas are welcome – ASTMH, NAM, NASEM, others?

Jerry – what about reaching out to Benjamin Corb and others?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E][b6]

Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
>
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] <[b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
[b6] assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
[b6]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017982
MORENS_NIH_036805
REL0000479982

Best,
Hillary

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
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] <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
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] <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens,

Thanks for sending. I'll write back to this reporter and ask her to send a fresh request to the press office once the WHO report is available – we can at that time better assess whether it makes sense for you or another NIAID expert to speak with the media about it.

Best,
Hillary

Hillary Hoffman, Ph.D., Writer/Editor
Office of Communications and Government Relations, NIAID, NIH
5601 Fishers Lane #6G38
Rockville, MD 20852
b6

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Mariana Lenharo <b6>
> **Date:** March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
> **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017983
MORENS_NIH_036806
REL0000479982

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. b6
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 11:02 AM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6 wrote:

> Thanks, you did a great job!
>
> <image001.gif>
>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> b6 b6 b6
> b6
>
> Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.
>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo b6
> **Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:18 AM
> **To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> **Subject:** Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017984
MORENS_NIH_036807
REL0000479982

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] b6 wrote:

I will be at b6 b6 b6 my cell…. ty

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

<image002.jpg>

From: Mariana Lenharo <b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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 b6 b6 b6

Thank you very much!

Best,

Mariana

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017985
MORENS_NIH_036808
REL0000479982

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 3:04 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> 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

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

From: Mariana Lenharo <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
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. [redacted]
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 1:03 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted] 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

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
[redacted] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
[redacted]

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image002.jpg>

From: Mariana Lenharo [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 2:50 PM
To: NIAID NEWS (NIH/NIAID) [redacted]>
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. b6
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 27 Jan 2023 9:38:58 AM -0500
Sent: Fri, 27 Jan 2023 9:38:52 AM -0500
Subject: Re: Finally - virologists fight back!
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio
CC: [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Rich Roberts
[b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Ron Corley was also listed as a supporter.

I do know Imperiale and I'm even more connected with Arturo. Maybe we should draft something soon that we can use. People like Paul Duprex, now the Salk Professor at Pitrsburgh, is a firebrand activist, and we should connect with people like him in prominent positions who can make their views known. Let's pick people at Stanford and the Hutch as well to counter the likes of Relman and Bloom. We have a Massachusetts Consortium on Pathogen Readiness with multiple scientists from all of the academic centers who could be approached as well I would ignore Rutgers as insignificant. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 8:42 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

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

<image001.jpg>

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

<image002.jpg>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015622
MORENS_NIH_033291
REL0000479984

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack.

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sponsor Message

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015623
MORENS_NIH_033292
REL0000479984

enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

- lab leak theory
- coronavirus research
- pathogens
- **Facebook**
- **Twitter**
- **Flipboard**
- **Email**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015624
MORENS_NIH_033293
REL0000479984

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 leksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015625
MORENS_NIH_033294
REL0000479984

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > 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 b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 >
Cc: David Morens < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak b6 > 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 b6 would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015627
MORENS_NIH_033296
REL0000479984

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Rich Robert <b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack 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 b6 from b6 - 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 [b6] > wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015629
MORENS_NIH_033298
REL0000479984

Baylor University , University Professor
Rice 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: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015630
MORENS_NIH_033299
REL0000479984

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Aleksei Chmura <[b6]> David Morens <[b6]
>; Gerald Keusch <[b6]>; Rich Roberts <[b6]
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 <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <
[b6]; David Morens <[b6]> Gerald Keusch
[b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]> Rich Roberts <
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

MinerFlux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: [b6]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

<Goodrum et al. A call for Rational Discourse mbio.00188-23.pdf>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015632
MORENS_NIH_033301
REL0000479984

Date: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 7:59:47 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 7:59:43 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
To: Edward Holmes b6 >;
CC: Jason Gale b6 Peter Daszak b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 Wang Linfa b6 Garry, Robert F b6 b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments: Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png

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 b6 > 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] b6 > 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 [b6] wrote:

Yes, good idea.

The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…

This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.

That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T
E [b6]

On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < [b6] > 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: [redacted] At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
To: [redacted]

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , [redacted]

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 [redacted] 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009541
MORENS_NIH_020046
REL0000479994

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 < **b6** wrote:

> Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 5:19:06 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 5:17:21 PM -0400
Subject: link to Republican letter demanding answers to 34 questions from EHA
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Here's the public statement with a link to their letter – so I guess it's officially public.

https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec-republican-leaders-request-information-from-u-s-group-affiliated-with-chinese-lab-at-center-of-covid-19-origin-investigation/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:55 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]
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

One of the Republican's responsible has, of course, already made the letter public:

https://twitter.com/cathymcmorris/status/1383145801678008324

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013898
MORENS_NIH_026377
REL0000479999

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:51 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 ; 'David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich < b6
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 with extra onerous process to cover NIH's demands and mistakes related to the R01 termination, I believe.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 10:44:32 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 10:41:04 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC: b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 John Feigelson b6 >;

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we're now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We've spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their 'angry letter/subpoena' story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak < b6
Cc: b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Jeff Sturchio < b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; John Feigelson < b6
Subject: Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It's just awful Peter, I'm so sorry, but if it's any consolation the press is busy with Trump hearings and the culture wars playing out on college campuses so there's a good chance that it won't be highlighted much in the mainstream media

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Peter Daszak b6 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.: +b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM
To: b6; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6; 'Jeff Sturchio' b6

MORENS_NIH_047393
REL0000480000

'Roberts, Rich[b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay'[b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <chm[b6]; John Feigelson[b6]
Subject: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
Importance: High

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day: https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a- hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

MORENS_NIH_047394
REL0000480000

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6 Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
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,

MORENS_NIH_047395
REL0000480000

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: b6; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' <b6>; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <b6>
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6 'John Feigelson' b6
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

MORENS_NIH_047396
REL0000480000

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: b6 >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' <
b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' b6 ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6
b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; John Feigelson b6
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6

Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio < [b6] Roberts, Rich < [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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_047398
REL0000480000

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 'Jeff Sturchio' < b6 >; 'Roberts, Rich' < b6 >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; John Feigelson < b6
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.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: b6
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 eff Sturchio < b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214
>
> Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth- alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/
>
> Full text of tweet:
>
> **Post**
> See new posts
> **Conversation**
> Pinned
> <image003.jpg>
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image001.png>
> BREAKING
> <image001.png>
> @EcoHealthNYC
> President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public

testimony

<image004.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY b6
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeff Sturchio b6; Roberts, Rich b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…

MORENS_NIH_047401
REL0000480000

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik'
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6
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

MORENS_NIH_047402
REL0000480000

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik <b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6
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 <b6 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 b6
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*

MORENS_NIH_047403
REL0000480000

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6 >; 'Alison Andre b6 b6 >
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik <b6
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
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 <
b6
> 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-

MORENS_NIH_047405
REL0000480000

initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_NIH_047407
REL0000480000

Date: Fri, 23 Apr 2021 12:22:12 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 23 Apr 2021 12:21:47 PM -0400
Subject: More on Michael Lauer's China probe at NIH
From: Peter Dasza[b6]
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]
[b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

Here's a piece in Nature w/ universities calling for more openness and transparency on NIH China funding rules, so good folks don't fall foul of them.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-00901-7

By the way, I want to take this opportunity to assure you I have not been and am not a member of the Chinese Govt's Thousand Talents Program…at least not that I know of, despite some nasty articles in the Rabid Right wing press.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:55 AM
To: 'David Morens' [b6]
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <
[b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: article based on Michael Lauer's testimony this week

It feels a bit creepy to hear NIH boasting about the hard work it's doing to root out communist infiltration into our universities. Here's an article based on Michael Lauer's testimony at the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, commenting that there's just too much work for them to keep on top of. I saw similar comments from him at last year's NIH Advisory Committee to the Director meeting where he presented something like 250 people they'd investigated in collab with the FBI, a handful who'd been charged and 60+ found not to have any concerns. I wonder if, like the McCarthy Era, they even knew they'd been investigated and their organizations contact about them?

After seeing that last year, I asked the FBI if I was under investigation. They actually checked and confirmed I was not. It sounds and smells like a witch hunt to me and unfortunately the Grand Inquisitor is the person(s) who are dealing with my R01 – Collins and Lauer…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019644
MORENS_NIH_039243
REL0000480004

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/apr/22/us- scientists-feared-compromised-china/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6
Subject: Re: 2 pager with timeline of NIH-EHA grant issues and Political letters/bills etc.

TY, this will be helpful in keeping things straight. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Apr 22, 2021, at 23:32, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:
>
> Dear All,
>
> I've lined up a timeline of all the NIH-EHA correspondence (almost all now available on the www.nlcampaigns.org website), as well as the political activities that have been happening over the past year of relevance – various bills, letters demanding information etc.
>
> Please feel free to share this doc with people who need to know. There are url links to all the political actions, and many more on the nlcampaigns website.
>
> Thanks again for all you're doing!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sat, 21 May 2022 12:15:31 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 21 May 2022 12:15:23 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Request from National Geographic
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Peter Daszak b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Rich Roberts b6
Attachments: b6

OK I won't say anything at this point

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPiC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:12 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Peter Daszak b6

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: RE: Request from National Geographic

Hi Peter H,

The (former) Lancet Task Force on Origins, Early Spread and One Health Solutions (you will all recall that Jeff Sachs disbanded us in September 2021 because we resisted his interference in our independence to write our report) will submit an invited Perspective article to PNAS on Monday. If you follow up with her you can let her know there is another MS under consideration by the journal, although I have to say my respect has been severely diminished by the Harrison/Sachs trash.

Peter D is one of our authors.

I'm not going to share it yet until we hear back from the editors, but I suspect some of them will be happy to have a science and evidence based report to publish and as it was invited and they are aware of the imminent submission I suspect they will make a rapid decision. That said, I would appreciate this not be shared with Jane Qiu at this time. I want the pleasure of forwarding it to Sachs personally and I don't want any leaks down the road.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens <dmm[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Request from National Geographic

Maybe Jerry can give her a heads up on his paper forthcoming

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 21, 2022, at 9:09 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Yes – I know Jane Qiu, she's good, balanced and has been widely attacked for not following the lab leak hype.

Bit of a red flag is her comment that the current PNAS op ed has anything at all to do with actually understanding the origins – the other papers are analyses of data, by scientists who know what they're doing in virology, disease ecology, epidemiology. Jeff Sachs and Neil Harrison are none of the above, and their paper is pure opinion. I guess Jeff Sachs and PNAS make it topical though..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 7:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Request from National Geographic

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Qiu <jane@janeqiu.com>
Date: May 21, 2022 at 3:54:52 AM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Request from National Geographic

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear Professor Hotez

I hope this message finds you well. I'm an independent science writer in Beijing, contributing to publications such as Nature, Science, Scientific American, MIT Technology Review, and The Economist.

I'm writing with regarding to an indepth article I'm writing for National Geographic (US) about covid origins. It will have a critical take on three preprints posted in late February—in the context of the latest PNAS Opinion article (please see the links below). A few scientists I talked to think that the jury is still out regarding the precise of role of the Huanan market. I wonder if we could have a chat about this and how best to move forward the debate.

1. The Huanan market was the epicenter of SARS-CoV-2 emergence, Worobey et al
https://zenodo.org/record/6299600
2. Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in the environment and animal samples of the Huanan Seafood Market, Gao et al.
https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-1370392/v1
3. SARS-CoV-2 emergence very likely resulted from at least two zoonotic events, Pekar et al
https://zenodo.org/record/6291628
4. A call for an independent inquiry into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, Harrison & Sachs
https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2202769119
If you are happy to talk, please let me know a date and time that would suit you the most. I can talk this weekend if that would be easier for you.

The origins debate has become rather toxic and it's been quite tricky to get people with the right expertise to help me. **But it's an enormously important debate and we desperately need critical journalism, which is totally dependent on experts like yourself.**

Incidentally, I've been living and breathing the topic of covid origins since December 2020, and have spent a total of 6 weeks in Wuhan, supported by a Pulitzer Centre grant (which also supports the current work). Please find a couple of my recent stories below, including a 10K narrative longform published by MIT Technology Review. **So I'm well versed in the relevant scientific literature as well all the nuances, intricacies and complexities involved.**
https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/02/09/1044985/shi-zhengli-covid-lab-leak-wuhan/
https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/11/19/1040390/covid-wuhan-natural-spillover-wuhan-wet-market-huanan/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000669
MORENS_NIH_005736
REL0000480008

I have a BSc in cellar and molecular biology in Engliand and PhD in cancer genetics in Scotland. After spending 6 years working as a postdoc on molecular neuroscience (in New York and London) and 2 years as an associated editor at Nature Reviews Neuroscience, I became a full time science writer and spent the first 5 years as a Beijing correspondent for Nature. **I have a super strong science background to tackle the nuances and complexities of the subject matter.**

Your help will be greatly and infinitely appreciated. **I can guarantee that you will not be misquoted or misrepresented**, and that the story will be nothing but constructive. I totally appreciate the sensitivity and the complexity of the issues at stake. I will do my utter best to do justice to this enormously important topic.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

With warmest regards,

Jane

***

Jane Qiu, PhD
Independent science writer, Beijing
2017-2018 Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT
Email: jane@janeqiu.com
Website: https://muckrack.com/jane- qiu
Twitter: @janeqiuchina

Awards

- 2021: The Best American Science and Nature Writing — notable writing
- 2021: Association of British Science Writers (ABSW)' Science Writers' Awards for Britain and Ireland: Feature of the Year category — finalist
- 2018 American Geophysical Union (AGU)'s Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism: Feature category — finalist
- 2017 South Asian Journalists Association Awards: Outstanding Enterprise Reporting category — winner
- 2017 Association of British Science Writers (ABSW)' Science Writers' Awards for Britain and Ireland: Best Feature category — winner
- 2016 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Kavli Science Journalism Awards: Magazine category — winner
- 2016 Asian Environmental Journalism Awards: Environmental Journalist of the Year category — winner

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Mon, 1 Aug 2022 3:23:02 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 1 Aug 2022 3:21:48 PM -0400
Subject:	Now Fox News on Rand Paul's GoF hearing
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Attachments:	image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.gif; image006.jpg

…and here's Fox News…of course:

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/rand- paul-vows-get-answers-covid-19-origins-gain-function-hearing

COVID-19 origins in gain-of-function hearing

Paul argues there is significant evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic originated in a Wuhan, China, lab

By **Michael Lee** | **Fox News**

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., announced the first ever hearing on gain-of-function research, which will be aimed at pinning down the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Rand Paul has led the effort to hold government officials accountable on the status of efforts being made to combat COVID-19, and the origins of this virus that has killed over 6 million people worldwide," a spokesperson for Paul told Fox News Digital. "This has been over a year-long process of getting Congressional Democrats to finally agree to a hearing, which will also be the first Congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. Dr. Paul looks forward to working with Subcommittee Chairwoman Hassan and hearing from expert witnesses during this critically important hearing that should've happened long ago."

The hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, comes a week after the Kentucky senator attempted to pass an amendment to the CHIPS-Plus Act that would have banned U.S. funding of gain-of-function research in China, with Democrats objecting to the amendment despite it passing unanimously in an earlier version of the bill last year.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008554
MORENS_NIH_018578
REL0000480009

In remarks on the floor of the Senate last week, Paul argued that there was significant evidence that the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic could be traced to a lab in Wuhan, China.

RAND PAUL SENDS MESSAGE TO FAUCI: YOU'LL HAVE TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH IF GOP WINS



Sen. Rand Paul speaks during a COVID-19 federal response hearing on Capitol Hill. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

"Gain-of-function research enhances the severity or transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans," Paul said. "The dangers are so acute that from 2014-2017, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects… the emergence of COVID serves as a reminder that dangerous research conducted in a secretive and totalitarian country is simply too risky to fund."

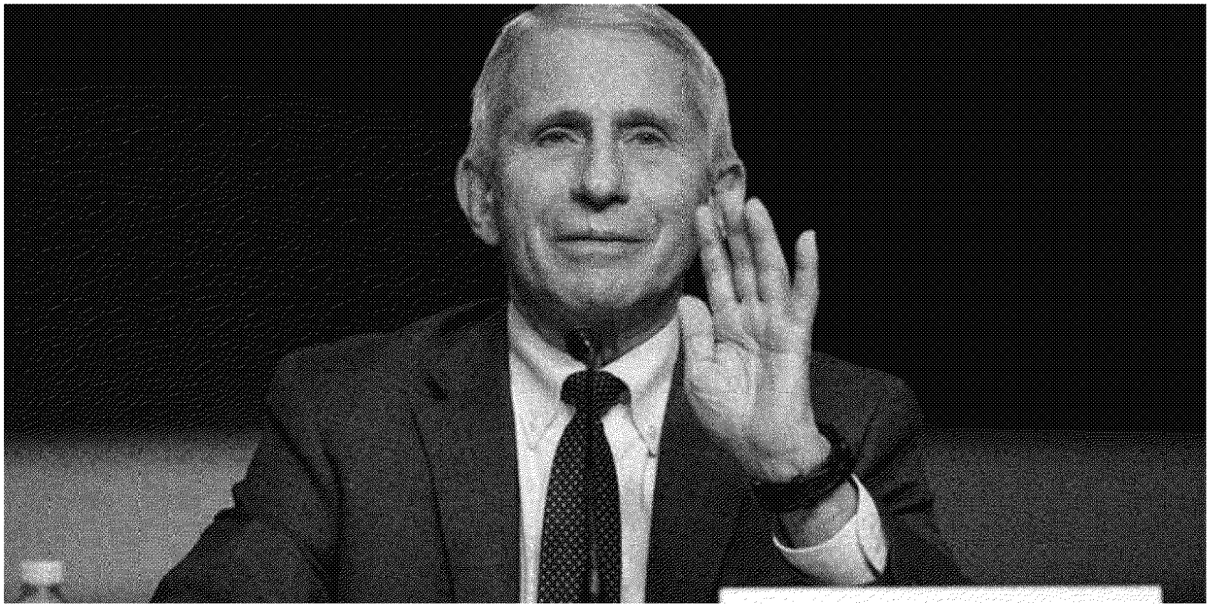
Paul also sent a letter to the acting director of the National Institutes of Health, Lawrence A. Tabak, last week to demand the agency be more transparent on the origins of COVID-19, arguing that NIH has "repeatedly disregarded its responsibilities" under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Of particular concern is NIH's recent admission in Court that the agency is withholding portions of emails between employees because they 'could be used out of context and serve to amplify the already prevalent misinformation regarding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic,'" Paul said in the letter. "This suggests NIH is censoring the information it releases to the public about the origins of the pandemic."

Paul has had several clashes with public health officials throughout the pandemic, including several confrontations with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who currently serves as the director of the National Institute of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008555
MORENS_NIH_018579
REL0000480009

Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to President Biden.



Dr. Anthony Fauci responds to questions from Sen. Rand Paul at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. (Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images)

Most recently, Paul told Fox News that Fauci would be forced to testify under oath regarding the pandemic if the Republican Party takes control of Congress after the midterm elections.

"If he's in public employment, we will subpoena him," Paul said. "He will have to appear and testify under oath. If Republicans take charge of the House or the Senate or both, he will have to testify under oath because a million Americans died. And we want to know about was there a cover-up in trying to suppress any link to the lab in China?"

Michael Lee is a writer at Fox News. Follow him on Twitter @UAMichaelLee

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:15 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] 'David Morens' [b6] 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]
'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchi [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]
Subject: Washington Examiner piece on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

The Washington Examiner is a pretty hard right-wing journal. Here's their story on the hearing on Wednesday, based on a press release from Rand Paul's office. Note that "Rand Paul will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19"….I thought that was the job of scientific research?

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/rand- paul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research?fbclid=IwAR3V- HXpVFZQ8M5Y73_kEQ9ful2gilqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA

I agree with your point Rich – someone from the scientific community should be pushing back against all this - hearings about scientific research of any type should include people who actually have done that research, or can point to its proposed or actual value.

When I gave my keynote last week in front of a room of virologists, I pointed out to them that it's no good watching EcoHealth be attacked in the press about gain-of-function, and thinking 'glad that's not us' – you guys in the room are the ones actually doing viral research and they're coming for your funding next!

All this, of course, is done to undermine Fauci, undermine Biden, and try to win funding and votes – none of it is actually done to get to the bottom of COVID-19 origins, or protect people in any way…

OPINION

Rand Paul to lead first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research

by Christopher Tremoglie, Commentary Fellow

| July 29, 2022 04:35 PM

On Aug. 3, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19. Paul, ranking member of the subcommittee on emerging threats and spending oversight, will lead the first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. This is an important matter that many Democratic politicians have largely ignored given the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul's office announced the hearing in a press release earlier this week.

"Gain-of-function research has historically been supported by tax dollars both domestically and internationally; as such, this hearing lies at the intersection of the subcommittee's two primary jurisdictional responsibilities — monitoring emerging threats and conducting oversight of federal spending," the press release states. "The dangers of this research are so acute that under President Barack Obama, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects until a risk assessment protocol could be developed for them. Gain-of-function research resumed in 2017, after a special committee review process was established to help manage these risks. However, serious questions remain about whether that protocol is sufficient to protect

the U.S. and the world from the potential negative consequences of this research. Moreover, the debate over what gain-of-function research is and what it is not, is not settled."

Gain-of-function research has been hotly debated. In previous hearings regarding the pandemic, Paul and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have had contentious exchanges. In May 2021, the two verbally sparred over whether the National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Paul claimed that "superviruses" were created. Fauci denied this and said such reports were "entirely and completely incorrect."

"The purpose of this hearing is to examine issues involving gain-of-function research, which attempts to enhance the severity and transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans or other mammals. Witnesses include Dr. Richard H. Ebright, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Dr. Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Dr. Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Arts & Sciences of MIT Media Lab," the press release says.

Much of the skepticism regarding NIH's role in the COVID-19 pandemic stems from a letter sent to Congress by Lawrence A. Tabak, a top NIH official. Tabak claimed that Fauci authorized NIH to fund EcoHealth Alliance to research the relationship between humans and bat-specific pathogens. In the letter, Tabak claimed that NIH failed to report results that revealed an increase in viral growth.

"These medical and scientific professionals will inform and educate lawmakers and the public on the myriad issues involving the risky, virus-enhancing research that is funded by taxpayer money," the press release says.

If proven true, it would be a black eye for NIH, Fauci, and federal government stewardship of taxpayer money.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 'David Morens' b6 ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6
'Roberts, Rich' b6 Jeff Sturchio b6
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' b6
Subject: update...

….and I apologize David – I've just noticed that the last email chain also had your (!) NIH email address on it…

I'm catching up on emails this week, having been out of the office, giving a keynote at a conference in Colorado – first in-person conference for me since March 2020.

It's been great to see the two papers published in *Science*, which by the way use data that the 'Joint WHO-China Study of the Animal Origins of COVID-19' first published in our report in March 2021. Despite the rhetoric since our WHO Wuhan work,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008558
MORENS_NIH_018582
REL0000480009

these data were new, and were freely proffered by the China team. These data point clearly to the industrial-scale trade in farmed and wild-caught wildlife in China as the origins, something which China first publicly stated in Jan 2020, then announcing its goal of closing the wildlife farming industry, and the 14 million jobs it involved. The point here is that, while the lab leak accusers point to China as covering up so they don't get blamed for the pandemic, they had already done the opposite with the wildlife trade.

On other news – we are now trying to stave off efforts to defund us by working with a bi-partisan request from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. We first heard from last Fall, and the letter came from the Democrats, Sen. Ossoff's staff, saying they were a bi-partisan group. However, it's clearly being led by the Republicans (Senator Ron Johnson's staff), and they're pushing us to hand over emails and documents back to 2010 relating to any communications w/ federal agencies on a bunch of COVID and lab leak topics. Right now we're trying to slow down their efforts, and narrow their search, but they're harbingers of what we will likely see in November if the Republicans win the House – a bunch of requests to preserve documents, followed by Subpoenas in January/Feb, unless this topic becomes 'old hat'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:20 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' b6 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' b6
Cc: 'David Morens' b6 'Keusch, Gerald T' b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 'Roberts, Rich' b6
Subject: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting- gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

- Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008559
MORENS_NIH_018583
REL0000480009

the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
- Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc.
- Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Oh ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> wrote:

Peter, I do not have a link. These pdfs came directly from the journal.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:20 PM
To: David Morens <b6
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 g >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Do you have the link so i can put it out on social media? I had trouble finding it

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm
David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens b6 wrote:
probably u have all seen these but just in case....d
David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008563
MORENS_NIH_018587
REL0000480009

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <mailto:[b6]> wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
• [b6] [b6] [b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
• [b6] [b6] [b6]
• [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sat, 20 May 2023 2:13:08 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 May 2023 2:13:03 PM -0400
Subject: FW: The new NIH Director nomination
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6

Peter and Jerry:

Got this from Harold. Have you already delivered this material to NIAID?

I will respond to his GOF comment. It would probably be helpful to get another descriptor.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

From: Harold E. Varmus b6 >
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: The new NIH Director nomination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, yes, I know Monica and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

From: Roberts, Rich b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005066
MORENS_NIH_012948
REL0000480012

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:25 AM
To: Harold E. Varmus b6
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The new NIH Director nomination

Harold:

You probably know Monica Bertagnolli and I am wondering if you will be contacting her prior to the Senate Hearing?

I ask because in light of the recent events related to EcoHealth Alliance she is likely to be questioned about their funding and the relationship to the COVID lab-leak hypothesis. I had let you know that their grant had been re-instated (2 1/2 years after we asked for it!), but I don't see that will stop some awkward questions for her.

If you do get the chance to chat you might mention some of the possible responses to questions that are covered in the attached.

If you will not be speaking with her, perhaps you could suggest someone else I might contact about this matter.

Hope all is well with you.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
Tel b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 12:16:13 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 12:12:43 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]

I was tempted to respond - it really irritated me for some reason - more than others. Maybe because he (almost certainly a he) comes across as otherwise intelligent...

In the end I deleted and [b6] I'm supposed to!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens
[b6] [b6]>
Subject: FW: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

I finally made contact with Pink Floyd and it's a nameless email. I took the last part to heart, had a nice day, said FU to Pink Floyd, and had a lovely dinner out here in the Berkshires.

Have either of you encountered this one before?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023132
MORENS_NIH_044218
REL0000480013

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University, Boston
MA 02118

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted] b6 >
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] b6
Subject: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication

Dear Professor, Mister/Madam

Congratulations to your publication (Calisher et al. (2020)) in the journal THE LANCET which has attracted many attentions.

However, you have to explain seriously this report about your publication (which has been published in The Daily Telegraph in UK): Revealed: How scientists who dismissed Wuhan lab theory are linked to Chinese researchers Cover-up alleged over Lancet letter that effectively shut down scientific debate into whether coronavirus was manipulated or leaked from lab

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/10/revealed- scientists-dismissed-wuhan-lab-theory-linked-chinese/

Reference:

Calisher, C., Carroll, D., Colwell, R., Corley, R. B., Daszak, P., Drosten, C., ... & Turner, M. (2020). Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19. The Lancet, 395(10226), e42-e43.

I hope you can accept my interview and give a serious answer in the public media.

Have a nice day!

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 7:16:41 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 7:16:36 PM -0500
Subject: Re: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
To: Peter Daszak b6
CC: Aguilar, Patricia V. b6

That might be good, but simple, with bullets, and the kind that lead him to ask for more

This is all about him getting to show you how smart he is. Give him a few pitches he can hit out of the park. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:12, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

Should I prepare 3-4 slides?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aguilar, Patricia V. b6
Subject: Re: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

I didn't know about the call tomorrow. It may be just you, Cliff, and Tony. But that is fine. No need for me to be there. Keep everything brief, just succinct bullet points on the most important take home messages, and then be prepared to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012419
MORENS_NIH_023620
REL0000480014

follow up in depth if he asks questions.

Remember that he is not so much interested in the geeky science but in communication points for when he goes on tv. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:02, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Please accept my apologies for dysfunction email replying!

Please also count me in for the panel you're organizing on viral surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and one of COVID origins if you go ahead with that.

I'll look for Katherine Laycock's email and respond now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Aguilar, Patricia V. [b6]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]g >
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

Hello Dr. Daszak:
Thank you for accepting our invitation to an ACAV event on COVID-19. We finalized the panelists for the COVID-19 variants webinar weeks ago, but we can certainly schedule another event focusing on COVID-19 origins.
Additionally, ACAV is organizing a scientific symposium, "Viral surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic." The event is scheduled as part of the ASTMH annual meeting. It would be fantastic to count on your participation as a panelist for this event. You might have received an invitation from one of our trainee leaders (Dr. Katherine Laycock).
Please let us know whether or not you can participate in this panel.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012420
MORENS_NIH_023621
REL0000480014

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Patty

Patricia V. Aguilar, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology
Associate Director, Center for Tropical Diseases
University of Texas Medical Branch
301 University Blvd
Galveston, Texas77550
b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>; Aguilar, Patricia V. [b6]
Subject: RE: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

WARNING: This email originated from outside of UTMB's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Answering this email now (late of course) – I'd be delighted to join an ACAV webinar – I'm not an authority on variants, but can talk on COVID origins and disease emergence in general if that fits

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 9:16:22 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 9:14:04 AM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Eddie Holmes [b6]; Kristian G. Andersen [b6] Rasmussen, Angie [b6]

Great to see these David, and great to see NIH holding the line.

I guess we all knew this was coming - lab leakers moving from bioengineered, to Mojiang mine engineered RaTG13, to 'unwitting' accident, to 'fieldworker on their boots' to now 'well they didn't have SARS-CoV-2 and it wasn't the cause of COVID, but this is GoF risky research so it needs to be closed down'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Eddie Holmes [b6]; Kristian G. Andersen [b6]; Rasmussen, Angie [b6]
Subject: Fwd: FW: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Peter and co0lleagues, not sure if I sent this before but this is an example of the talking points our spokespeople use when approached about the Intercept article, and this sort of stuff is updated continually along with other related items akin to this. ERvery media request gets responded to in some way: either a direct interview with one of us, almost always Tony, or contact in writing or phone with the various spokespeople, who are professional journalists and media people.

David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Date: Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 8:50 AM
Subject: FW: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept
To: David Morens <b6> <b6>

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

b6 b6 b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
7 b6 b6 b6
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:45 PM
To: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; NIAID BUGS b6
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; NIAID FOG b6 >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 ; NIAID Media Inquiries (b) (6) ; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]

Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Thanks to everyone for your review. For future reference, please see the attached document for a copy of the answers we submitted for clearance… we are currently waiting to receive that clearance.

I'm going to be out from

Best,

Elizabeth

From: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:54 PM

To: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID FOG [b6] >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6] >
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Hi Elizabeth,

I have no further comments.

Thank you,

Alan

From: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID FOG [b6] >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6] >
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Hey Elizabeth,

Since our discussion, program provided a few addition comments/edits.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Q. Ford, Ph.D.

Office of Scientific Coordination and Program Operations

Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

MORENS_NIH_043577
REL0000480017

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

5601 Fishers Lane Room 7G64

Rockville, MD 20892

b6

Disclaimer:
The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID FOG [b6] >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6] >
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Good afternoon,

As an FYI, it looks like the journalist's deadline is currently 2:00 PM today, so I'm going to submit these responses for clearance at 1:40. Comments received afterwards may be difficult to incorporate properly.

Best,

Elizabeth

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 12:06 PM

To: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID FOG [b6]>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6]>
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Great, thank you. Assuming we use Erik Stemmy's comment as the response to that last question… any further comments from anyone?

Best,

Elizabeth

From: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID FOG [b6]>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6]>
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Hey Elizabeth,

Program added a couple of comments, which can be found in the attached version.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Q. Ford, Ph.D.

Office of Scientific Coordination and Program Operations

Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

5601 Fishers Lane Room 7G64

Rockville, MD 20892

(b) (6)

Disclaimer:
The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID BUGS [b6] gov >
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID FOG [b6] >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] ; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6] >
Subject: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Good morning,

Following review and revision by Building 1, we'd like to send the attached responses back to The Intercept, following their recent Gain of Function inquiry. Would you please review these and provide any final comments? I would like to submit these answers for clearance by early afternoon today.

As an FYI, since there has been some confusion over what the reporter meant by "the case of the novel coronaviruses replicating at 100s of times the rate compared to the original virus," I have attached a recent email she also sent to Dr. Fauci, which may give some context.

Best,

Elizabeth Deatrick

Technical Writer-Editor

Office of Communications and Government Relations

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

b6

Please note that I am not a spokesperson for NIAID and should not be quoted as such.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 11:37:08 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 11:06:36 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6
CC: David Morens b6 Gerald T Keusch b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg; Lauer letter to b6

Just harassment now given academic cover, tragic

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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: b6
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
b6
iPhone

On Aug 20, 2022, at 7:29 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6 g >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio' < [b6] 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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 |

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010692
MORENS_NIH_021240
REL0000480021

The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China .

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds

of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.
Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."
An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.
The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."
But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.
The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.
Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Gerald T Keusch b6; Jeff Sturchio < b6
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 [b6] > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6] 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' <[b6] >; Jeff Sturchi[b6] <[b6]
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to

undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 g >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 David Morens b6 >; David Morens < b6 ; Gerald T Keusch b6
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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010696
MORENS_NIH_021244
REL0000480021

Morens < b6 David Morens b6 Gerald T Keusch < b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > --
> > Emily Kopp
> > Reporter
> > U.S. Right to Know
> > Signal: b6 b6
> >
> > 

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010698
MORENS_NIH_021246
REL0000480021

Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 6:55:59 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 6:55:22 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC:	Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image012.jpg; image014.jpg; image016.jpg; image018.jpg; image020.jpg

Yes you certainly did. The lab leakers are already trying to undermine your arguments, but they do that all the time, by simply following their own error-filled narrative. I can't believe PNAS let such an obvious regurgitation of conspiracy theories be published.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I hope I got it right 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: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
LinkedIn Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 5:44 PM, Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org > wrote:
>
> This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now
>
> https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html
>
> and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!
>
> https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html
>
> Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002027
MORENS_NIH_008485
REL0000480022

collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

"The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

"These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002028
MORENS_NIH_008486
REL0000480022

To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
>
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; David Morens <b6>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE

OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002031
MORENS_NIH_008489
REL0000480022

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-

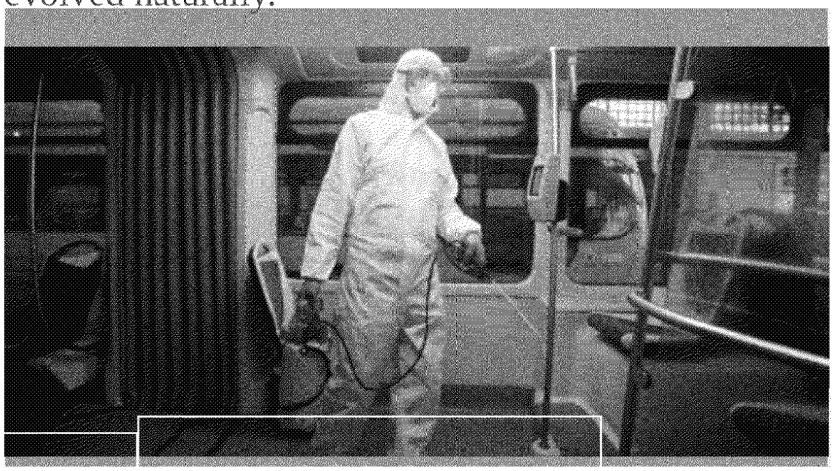
specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



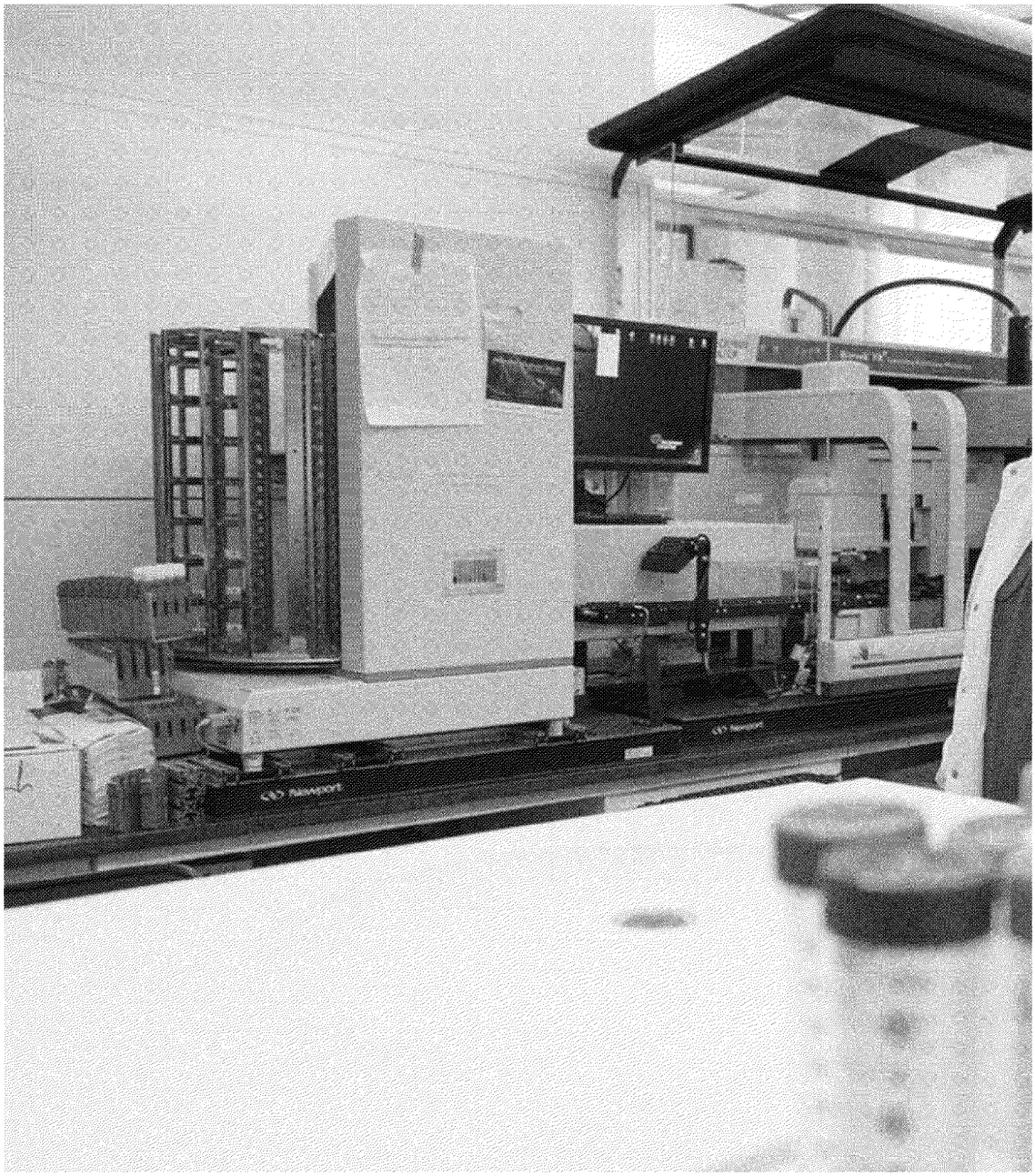
Read Our Complete

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002033
MORENS_NIH_008491
REL0000480022

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002034
MORENS_NIH_008492
REL0000480022



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002035
MORENS_NIH_008493
REL0000480022

coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

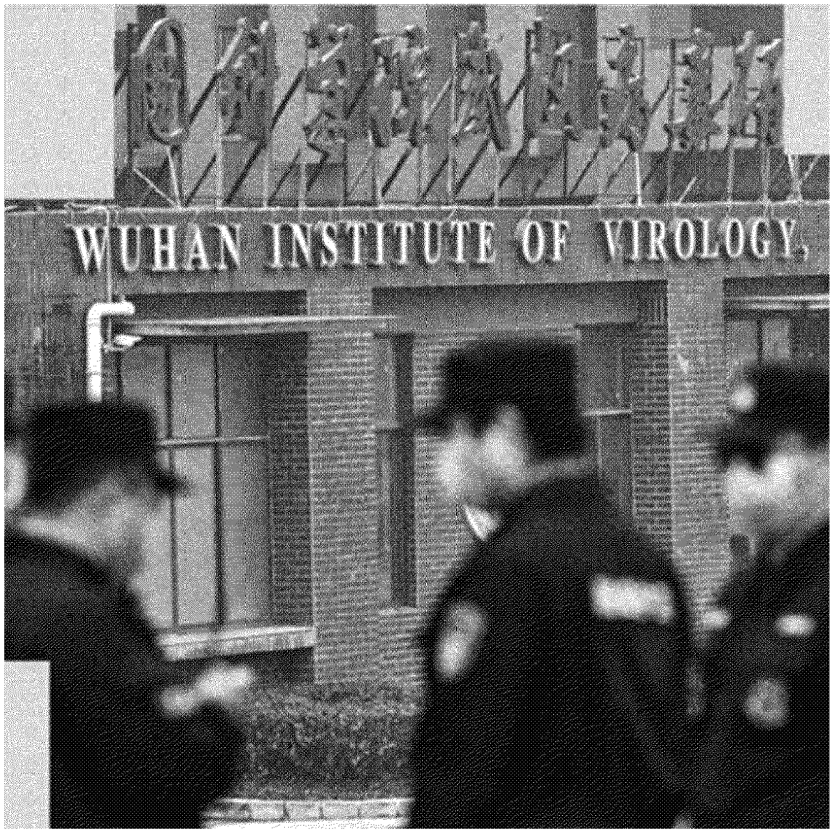
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for

RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002039
MORENS_NIH_008497
REL0000480022

an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the " poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002040
MORENS_NIH_008498
REL0000480022

look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002041
MORENS_NIH_008499
REL0000480022

laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

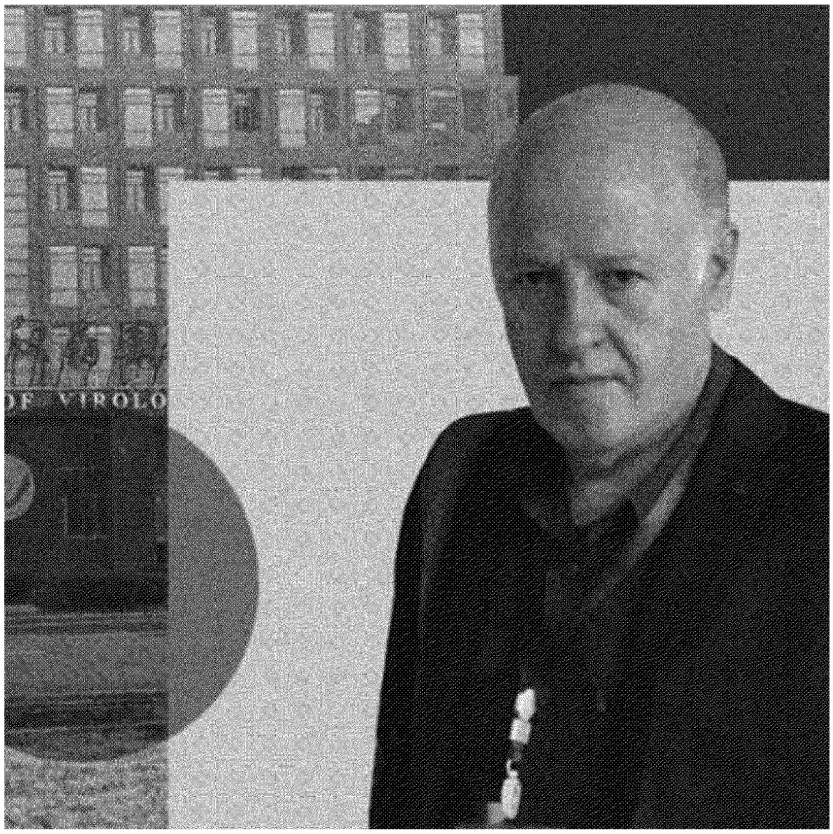
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002043
MORENS_NIH_008501
REL0000480022

public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002044
MORENS_NIH_008502
REL0000480022

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 Roberts, Rich < b6
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Em
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New Yo
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappe
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the m
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted ar
packages were withdrawn upon reque
included one requested by the submit
the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002048
MORENS_NIH_008506
REL0000480022

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura <b6>; peter hotez b6; Roberts, Rich <
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <b6
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens b6

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg < NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

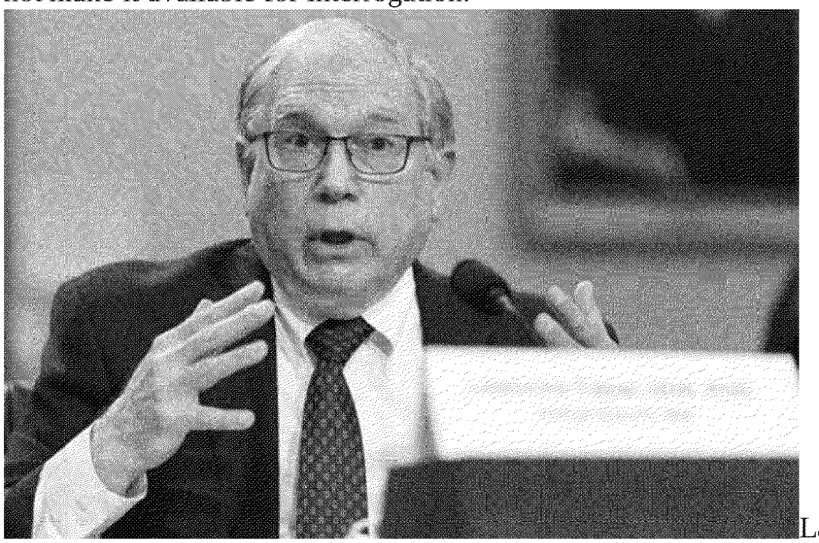
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002050
MORENS_NIH_008508
REL0000480022

“There’s no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that,” Tabek said. “If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation.”



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

“So wait, you have the information still?” Beutler followed up.

“We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed,” Tabak explained. “And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it.”

“So you don’t have the information anymore?” Beutler asked.

“We do. We never erase the information. We keep it,” Tabak clarified.

“So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?” the congresswoman followed up.

“That’s correct,” he said.

“OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?” Beutler asked.

“In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that’s the most difficult for people to access,” Tabak replied. “The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it’s withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that’s how it’s done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information.”



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

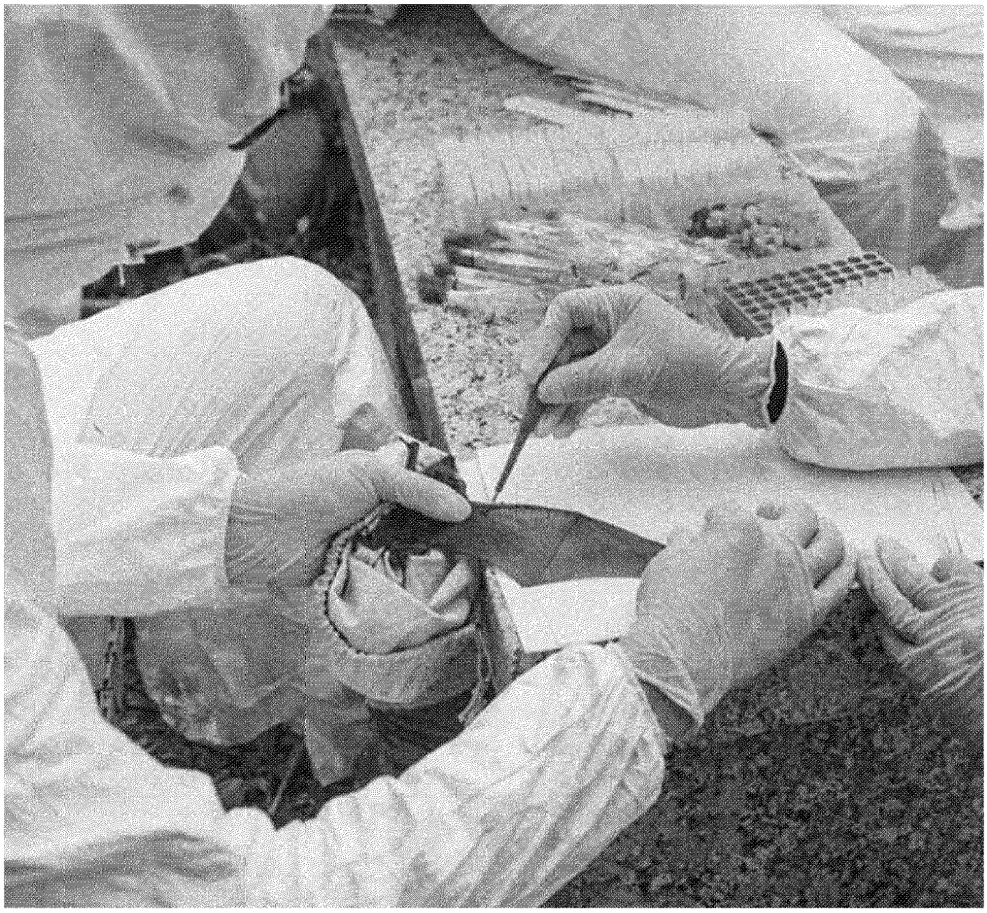
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.

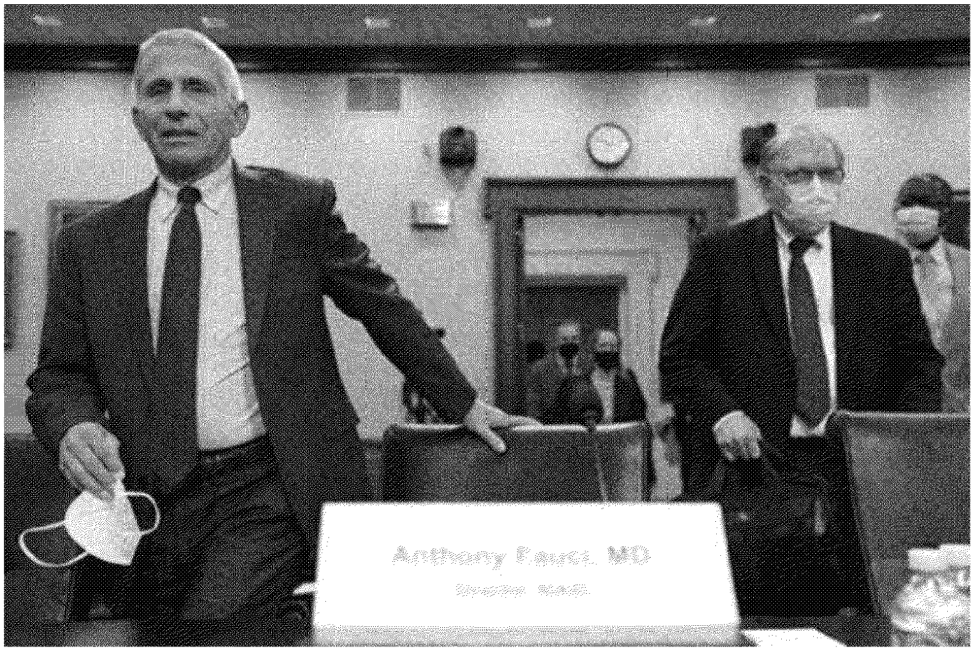


Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 1:27:56 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 1:27:46 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 Jeff Sturchio b6

What a mess

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 9, 2022, at 12:14 PM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 9, 2022 at 13:12:58 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 9, 2022 at 12:53:14 EDT
Subject: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Tech & Science

Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

By Ed Browne On 7/6/22 at 10:51 AM EDT

A Russian government official has demanded that Washington be "held accountable" for the COVID-19 pandemic after a pair of university professors said U.S. research organizations had more to answer for.

Since the early days of the pandemic in 2020 there has been much discussion over how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID, came into existence.

World Health Organization (WHO) researchers sent to Wuhan, China, to investigate the first known outbreak concluded that although more research was needed, a natural spillover to humans from animals was the most likely outcome and considered a lab leak scenario to be "extremely unlikely."

At the time the lab leak scenario was perhaps more of a fringe idea and one that carried with it an air of conspiracy theory. Since then, calls for investigation into the origins of COVID, including a lab leak, have come from the U.S. president himself and the possibility has not been written off, though it's sparked animosity between scientists who disagree on the likelihood of the theory as well as between countries who are keen to offload blame.

Proponents of the lab leak theory argue that it is no coincidence that some labs—notably those in Wuhan—had been working on engineering coronaviruses in the years prior to the pandemic.

In May, two Columbia University professors published an opinion article in the U.S. journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) in which they argue that animal spillover and a "research-related incident" are "the two main hypotheses" regarding the origin of COVID and that "there is much

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008177
MORENS_NIH_017963
REL0000480035

important information that can be gleaned from U.S.-based research institutions, information not yet made available for independent, transparent, and scientific scrutiny."

Jeffrey Sachs, an economics professor, and Neil Harrison, a professor of anesthesiology and pharmacology, went on to state that "much of the work on SARS-like coronaviruses performed in Wuhan [before the pandemic] was part of an active and highly collaborative U.S.–China scientific research program funded by the U.S. government" and that "it is still not clear whether the U.S. intelligence community (IC) investigated these U.S.-supported and U.S.-based activities. If it did, it has yet to make any of its findings available to the U.S. scientific community for independent and transparent analysis and assessment."

More recently, Sachs went further. Speaking in a discussion at the Gate Center research group in Madrid last month, Sachs said: "I'm pretty convinced it came out of a U.S. lab of biotechnology, not out of nature after two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder, in my view, of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover.

"We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear, but there's enough evidence that it should be looked into and it's not being investigated," he said, without elaborating on the nature or substance of said evidence.

However, responding to a *Newsweek* request for comment, Sachs provided some additional insight into his thinking.

"The basic point is the US-backed and US-funded research in the US and partners in China was to perform the very kind of experiments that may have produced SARS-CoV-2," he wrote in an email.

"Indeed, in my view, that is the most likely inference from various pieces of evidence. SARS-CoV-2 is a SARS-like CoV (coronavirus) that has a Furin Cleavage Site (FCS). The US team backed by NIH was intent on introducing an FCS into a large number of previously unreported SARS-CoVs.

"My personal best guess is that SARS-CoV-2 was thereby created and that it accidentally escaped from a laboratory, perhaps the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or perhaps elsewhere.

"NIH has yet not told us what it knew when. The ongoing NIH secrecy and indeed misdirection is a huge and ongoing problem," he concluded.

However, as the U.S. Intelligence Council has previously noted, and past research has suggested, instances have been observed in which furin cleavage sites—a part of SARS-CoV-2 that enhances infection—have been identified in naturally-occurring coronaviruses in the past, and that a coronavirus that was 96.2 percent identical to SARS-CoV-2 was discovered in a bat in 2013.

While the research into and debate around this particular aspect of SARS-CoV-2 continues, it is neither a definitive indicator of lab origins of the virus, nor is it a new piece of information in the conversation about Covid origins, as some outlets and commentators have purported.

It is also worth noting that Sachs' own credibility and links to China, where he holds an advisory role at Beijing' Tsinghua University, have been questioned in the light of his efforts to find the origins of the virus, with some conservative outlets branding him "China's apologist in chief."

And regardless of his genuine or purported affiliations, it is worth emphasizing that Sachs' primary expertise lie in the fields of economics and policy, rather than virology.

Newsweek has contacted the U.S. Department of State for comment.

Shortly after videos of Sachs' comments spread online, Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma in Russia, pounced on the claim to criticize the U.S. and demand compensation.

In a Telegram post on Wednesday this week, Volodin wrote, translated from Russian: "Millions of sick and dead people, the global economic crisis, a drop in people's living standards are the consequences of COVID-19 for which Washington needs to be held accountable.

"To all states affected by the pandemic, the United States is obliged to compensate for the losses incurred."

It should be noted that Russian officials and outlets have been spreading debunked claims and propaganda about supposed U.S. "biolabs" in Ukraine since invading its neighboring country.

It's also not the first time that COVID origins accusations have been levelled at Washington. China, which itself has been a target of such accusations, has in turn pushed its own theories.

Several times last year, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian suggested that the Fort Detrick military base in the U.S. should be investigated as part of the WHO's COVID investigations. China's state-owned *Global Times* newspaper has also made similar claims.

Update 07/07/22, 5:16 a.m. ET: This article was updated with comment from Jeffrey Sachs.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 5 Sep 2023 1:12:28 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: David Morens b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David Morens

b6

b6 b6 b6 (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Keusch, Gerald T** b6
Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 11:03 PM
Subject: RE: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
To: David Morens b6, Peter Daszak b6, Aleksei Chmura b6, Peter Hotez b6, Jeff Sturchio b6
Rich Roberts b6

David, I have 15 emails I sent to you, most with the rest of the gang. I don't have anything that would address the separation you have consistently maintained between government business and our conversations. These are all the usual exchanges among scientists who know one another and are reflecting on a contentious and challenging scientific environment.

If it would help to forward all of them to you or to your lawyer I am happy to do that. I might get my IT team to help me organize it, but I am sure I can get it done. They may even be able to tell me how to access emails you are part of but are not the first few email addresses that pop up.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Hotez <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>
Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

PS, there is some urgency to my responding, with all the info i can dig up. Sorry to ask a favor but this is an important "ask".

I have told nih that i have NOT done what nih defines as "government business" on my gmail, but rather on several occasions, in emails, gmails, and phone calls, to you and others, have requested that personal emails to me or cc'd to me should be sent to my gmail, and even later, sent to my proton mail.

In my understanding, personal emails that are not business of the US govt, include things like discussing death threats to scientists, investigations of non nih scientists for alleged wrongdoing, discussions about defending scientific integrity, etc

As govt scientists we DO NOT lose first amendment rights, but cannot take public positions on matters of government policy unless we identify ourselves as citizens, ie, not as government employees. Hence we have all been trained to keep personal stuff or emails that reflect opinions which are not USG policies, off of NIH email, and by default onto private mails like gmail

That is what i believe i have done, with the extra caveat that since i was being continually foia'd i also wanted to prevent the personal and private opinions and concerns of my friends, ie, all of you, from showing up in the newspapers, and reduce the chance that your harrassments would be magnified

I hope you will recall and even find emails that are supportive of the fact that i said to all of you that i could not discuss govt business on emails, but please keep me in the loop for my info, and that you should not expect me to respond although i wanted to know what was happening

Stuff like that.

Some of you know that as of yesterday, and thanks to Rich and his daughter and her husband, b6 b6 NIH will apparently be happy to throw me under the bus to appease the House Subcommittee, but even at my age i feel i am still highly productive scientifically and have much more to do, including development of covid and influenza vaccines with our molecular pathogenesis lab and with our nih vaccine research center

Thanks for your support, david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2023, at 15:41, David Morens <b6> wrote:

> Colleagues, the below letter is related to the nih investigation of me and the definition of "government business" as opposed to personal emails to and from colleagues on gmail that do not do government business such as managing grants, organizing meetings, and thins like that
>
> If you think you might have any emails or even remembrances of such, can you please let me know

For example my emails related to the one which the SSCP has quoting me as referring to the GOF unmentionables

Thank you, david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6
Date: August 23, 2023 at 15:18:16 EDT
To: David Morens <b6
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>
Date: August 23, 2023 at 14:54:04 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6 "Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" <b6>, "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6
Cc: "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" <
Subject: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015709
MORENS_NIH_033396
REL0000480041

In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?

> *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.*

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015710
MORENS_NIH_033397
REL0000480041

their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service (ret.)

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

b6 (assistant: Sherri DePollar)

b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci

b. Francis Collins

c. Lawrence Tabek

d. Hugh Auchincloss

e. Cliff Lane

f. David Morens

g. Ping Chen

h. Ian Watson

i. Andrew Pope

j. Victor Dzau

k. Robert Redfield

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015712
MORENS_NIH_033399
REL0000480041

l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee

m. David Christian Hassell

n. Jeremy Farrar

o. Robert Garry

p. Michael Farzan

q. Edward Holmes

r. W. Ian Lipkin

s. Andrew Rambaut

t. Peter Daszak

u. Aleksei Chmura

v. Kevin Olival

w. Christian Drosten

x. Ron Fouchier

y. Marion Koopmans

z. Michael Worobey

aa. Jonathan Pekar

bb. Florence Debarre

cc. Angela Rasmussen

dd. Ralph Baric

ee. James LeDuc

ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015713
MORENS_NIH_033400
REL0000480041

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember

deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail, once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than under identifying emails and stuff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015714
MORENS_NIH_033401
REL0000480041

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related..

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

David,

If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015715
MORENS_NIH_033402
REL0000480041

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

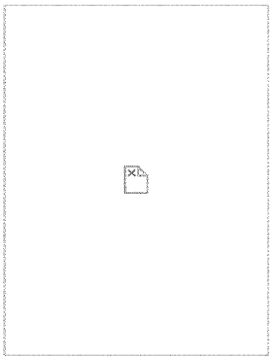
<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service

Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015717
MORENS_NIH_033404
REL0000480041

Thanks Jill,

i have a few questions.... see below

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6** > wrote:
>
> David,
>
> For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

> You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015718
MORENS_NIH_033405
REL0000480041

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

> Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those. Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there maybe emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015719
MORENS_NIH_033406
REL0000480041

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015720
MORENS_NIH_033407
REL0000480041

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < **b6** wrote:

Dr. Morens,

Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.

Thanks,

Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

Phone: b6

b6

Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2021 9:47:35 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 12 Apr 2021 9:47:31 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler < b6

Peter:

I will certainly keep this private until you feel it is appropriate to post it.

The response seems to me to be very comprehensive and I hope it satisfies the NIH.

Good luck

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; David Morens b6 >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >
Subject: FW: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear colleagues – here's my response to Michael Lauer's depressingly impossible conditions on the release of funding of our grant (Attached letter and Email chain below). Thanks for your suggestions re. edits.

It's too long and waffly of course, and probably too much information, but I've been careful to write it as if it were one day going to be made public so that it lays out all the details. I'm expecting it'll be released after a FoIA request, or a leak from NIH (as they have done repeatedly), or if the House Committee on Science, Space & Technology takes the issue up and demands to see the letters. Note that the Republican leaders of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce (among others) have already asked for this.

Because the goal here is to try to give NIH a valid rationale for reinstating funding, I'm hoping you won't make this letter public yet, but I will have no problem with it being posted on the NLCampaigns website if and when it looks like others are going to post it, or I get a negative response from NIH.

Thanks again for your help – it's been a very rough few weeks as the incredibly hard work of the WHO mission has been undermined in a coordinated, clearly well-funded campaign here. I hope politics will not win over science, and I'm ready to continue the fight…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:36 PM
To: 'Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]' [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]'Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]' <[b6]
Subject: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013743
MORENS_NIH_025909
REL0000480042

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <b6>
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
Phone:
Email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:02 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ***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 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

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel. b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 16 Feb 2021 7:10:14 AM -0500
Subject: RE: u will love this.... FW: AP: The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Nice find David! Tweeting it out right now…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: u will love this.... FW: AP: The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories



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
[b6] (assistant: Whitney Robinson)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012447
MORENS_NIH_023648
REL0000480044

b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
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 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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012448
MORENS_NIH_023649
REL0000480044

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.

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."

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 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.

———

Follow Klepper on Twitter: https://twitter.com/DavidKlepper
Follow Amiri on Twitter: https://twitter.com/FarnoushAmiri
Follow Dupuy on Twitter:https://twitter.com/Beatrice —Dupuy

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Thu, 12 Aug 2021 12:30:41 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 12 Aug 2021 12:26:25 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: CNN: Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe https://cnn.it/2Ub2xO7
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia Ready to submit..docx

Here's a not-quite-finished draft of the paper. Please share with your colleagues at NIAID.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Peter Daszak < [b6]; David Morens [b6] Robert Kessler < [b6] >
Subject: RE: CNN: Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe https://cnn.it/2Ub2xO7

Hi Peter, did you send that paper to me? If so I missed it but would certainly like to read it without having to go through the Peter file in my inbox.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:23 AM
To: David Morens [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6] g >; Keusch, Gerald T < [b6]
Subject: RE: CNN: Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe https://cnn.it/2Ub2xO7

As we suspected – no new information.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021419
MORENS_NIH_042295
REL0000480052

I sent them my upcoming paper analyzing number of people likely infected each year by bat SARSr-CoVs in SE Asia (50,000-400,000 people per year). I wonder if they read it….?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Kessler, Robert (b6); Keusch, Jerry b6 b6
Subject: FW: CNN: Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe https://cnn.it/2Ub2xO7

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
- b6 assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message**

and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:37 PM
Subject: CNN: Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe https://cnn.it/2Ub2xO7

Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe

By Kylie Atwood, Natasha Bertrand, Zachary Cohen and Katie Bo Williams, CNN
Updated 4:03 PM ET, Wed August 11, 2021

*Washington (CNN)*Intelligence officials are nearing the end of a 90-day investigation into the origins of Covid-19 that was ordered by President Joe Biden, and have drafted a classified report that is now in the preliminary review process, according to three sources familiar with the probe.
Sources familiar with the initial report say that after three months of poring over data and raw intelligence, the intelligence community is still divided over two theories -- one suggesting the virus originated from a lab in Wuhan, China, and the other suggesting it jumped naturally to humans from animals, the sources said. The report as it stands now contains "nothing too earth shattering," one source explained.

In May, Biden told US intelligence agencies to "redouble" their efforts to investigate how the virus originated, including the possibility that it emerged from a lab accident. Biden ordered the investigation after receiving an earlier report on the origins and asking for follow-up information, he said in a statement. The 90-day clock that Biden set for this investigation will be up in late August.

It's possible that the draft report could undergo significant revisions during the remaining review process. Biden also tasked the intelligence community with declassifying as much of the report as possible, a process now underway as it undergoes initial reviews.

Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt,

The intelligence community's inability to present one theory with high confidence after three months of intense work underscores just how hard it is to probe the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.
"We will not weigh in on the substance of the 90-day review while it is still underway," an ODNI spokesman said in a statement to CNN.

Last week, CNN reported that intelligence agencies had gotten their hands on a trove of genetic data drawn from virus samples at the lab in Wuhan that some officials believe could have been the source of the outbreak. It's unclear whether officials have finished analyzing that data.

Intelligence officials have also taken a fresh look at signals intelligence, like intercepted communications and satellite imagery, that could provide clues.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021421
MORENS_NIH_042297
REL0000480052

But ultimately, China's refusal to share information from the early days of the outbreak and the country's lack of transparency has been a major hurdle, and officials had been broadly pessimistic about finding a smoking gun during the 90-day push.
The report -- which was done without any Chinese participation -- is now being reviewed by the intelligence community and outside experts for feedback before it is finalized later this month, the three sources said. Once the classified version is finalized, an unclassified version will also be developed so that the Biden administration can share something with the public, one source explained.

Officials told CNN that the Biden administration has considered whether to launch another investigation if this one proves inconclusive, but it is unclear whether a decision has been made to reopen the probe after the 90-day report is released.
Last month, a bipartisan group of lawmakers made clear they want Biden to continue investigating the origins issue until the intelligence community reaches a high confidence assessment, even if that takes longer than 90 days.

But there are some concerns that the political debate around Covid origins and China's refusal to share pertinent information means that the US may never reach a definitive conclusion on that front, two sources said.

"The failure to get our inspectors on the ground in those early months will always hamper any investigation into the origin of Covid-19," Biden said when he announced that he had launched the investigation, noting that he had previously called for the CDC to get access to China to learn about the virus in order to help fight it more effectively.

Collecting intelligence about the breadth of Chinese actions that may have inhibited the World Health Organization or other origins investigations was one of the two primary objectives of the Biden administration's 90-day review earlier this summer, according to a tasking memo sent to relevant agencies that was obtained by CNN.

Chinese government rejects WHO plan for second phase of Covid-19 origins study

But unlike the question of whether the coronavirus first emerged naturally through human contact with animals in the wild or in markets, or via a lab accident, intelligence officials believe there is enough evidence to make a compelling case that the Chinese government's initial handling of the outbreak and efforts to suppress relevant information in the months since, has significantly constrained all efforts to examine the pandemic's true origins, according to a source familiar with the findings.

Despite a near consensus among those officials about the impact of China's actions, it remains unclear how far the Biden administration will go in calling out Beijing publicly once its ongoing 90-day review is over or how those findings will factor into the version of the report that is publicly released, the source said.

"What they release will be interesting ... but how far is Biden willing to go? If he tries these coercive measures on origins, how will that impact the other issues?" a former US official familiar with intelligence related to the origins investigation told CNN.
Biden's launch of the investigation came after a US intelligence report found several researchers at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became ill with an unidentified infection or disease in November 2019 and had to be hospitalized -- a new detail that fueled fresh public pressure on Biden to delve deeper into the origin of the virus.

It also came after CNN reported that Biden's team shut down a closely held State Department effort launched late in the Trump administration to prove that Covid-19 originated in a Chinese lab over concerns about the quality of its work.
White House officials have said that getting to the bottom of the origin of the pandemic will help prevent another one, and after unsuccessful World Health Organization (WHO) efforts to investigate the matter, the Biden administration orchestrated their own effort.

In July, the White House said it was "deeply disappointed" when China rejected the WHO's plan for a second phase of an investigation into the origin of the coronavirus. And after the WHO's first investigation the White House was critical of their findings due to limited access to "complete, original data and samples."

- P

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:17 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 7:29 PM
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >, Jeff Sturchio b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, Peter Daszak b6 >

And by the way, it was very good to see you as well. You made major contributions to the successful start of our quest for a suitable and effective response to all the messy nasty stuff out there. Now let it rock and roll…

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 7:28 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I

thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio
[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007938
MORENS_NIH_017289
REL0000480056

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich [b6] > wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens [b6] >
Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Peter Daszak
[b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6] >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
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]" [b6]
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007942
MORENS_NIH_017293
REL0000480056

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007943
MORENS_NIH_017294
REL0000480056

was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007944
MORENS_NIH_017295
REL0000480056

established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007945
MORENS_NIH_017296
REL0000480056

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 9:14:04 AM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Eddie Holmes [b6]>; Kristian G. Andersen [b6] Rasmussen, Angie [b6]

Great to see these David, and great to see NIH holding the line.

I guess we all knew this was coming - lab leakers moving from bioengineered, to Mojiang mine engineered RaTG13, to 'unwitting' accident, to 'fieldworker on their boots' to now 'well they didn't have SARS-CoV-2 and it wasn't the cause of COVID, but this is GoF risky research so it needs to be closed down'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Eddie Holmes [b6]>; Kristian G. Andersen [b6]>; Rasmussen, Angie [b6]>
Subject: Fwd: FW: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013705
MORENS_NIH_025870
REL0000480065

Peter and co0lleagues, not sure if I sent this before but this is an example of the talking points our spokespeople use when approached about the Intercept article, and this sort of stuff is updated continually along with other related items akin to this. ERvery media request gets responded to in some way: either a direct interview with one of us, almost always Tony, or contact in writing or phone with the various spokespeople, who are professional journalists and media people.

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Date: Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 8:50 AM
Subject: FW: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept
To: David Morens b6 b6 >

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013706
MORENS_NIH_025871
REL0000480065

b6 b6 b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
7 b6 b6 b6
: b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:45 PM
To: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; NIAID BUGS b6
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; NIAID FOG b6 >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; NIAID Media Inquiries b6 >; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 gov >
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Thanks to everyone for your review. For future reference, please see the attached document for a copy of the answers we submitted for clearance… we are currently waiting to receive that clearance.

I'm going to be out from

Best,

Elizabeth

From: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:54 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013707
MORENS_NIH_025872
REL0000480065

To: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID FOG [b6]>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]NIAID Media Inquiries [b6]>
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Hi Elizabeth,

I have no further comments.

Thank you,

Alan

From: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID FOG [b6]>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6]>
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Hey Elizabeth,

Since our discussion, program provided a few addition comments/edits.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Q. Ford, Ph.D.

Office of Scientific Coordination and Program Operations

Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

5601 Fishers Lane Room 7G64

Rockville, MD 20892

b6

b6

Disclaimer:
The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID FOG [b6] >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6] >
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Good afternoon,

As an FYI, it looks like the journalist's deadline is currently 2:00 PM today, so I'm going to submit these responses for clearance at 1:40. Comments received afterwards may be difficult to incorporate properly.

Best,

Elizabeth

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 12:06 PM

To: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID FOG [b6]>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] NIAID Media Inquiries [b6]>
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Great, thank you. Assuming we use Erik Stemmy's comment as the response to that last question… any further comments from anyone?

Best,

Elizabeth

From: Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID BUGS [b6]
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID FOG [b6]>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; NIAID Media Inquiries [b6]>
Subject: RE: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Hey Elizabeth,

Program added a couple of comments, which can be found in the attached version.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Q. Ford, Ph.D.

Office of Scientific Coordination and Program Operations

Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013710
MORENS_NIH_025875
REL0000480065

NIAID/NIH/DHHS

5601 Fishers Lane Room 7G64

Rockville, MD 20892

b6

b6

Disclaimer:
The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; NIAID BUGS b6
Cc: Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; NIAID FOG b6 >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 NIAID Media Inquiries b6 >
Subject: For final review: Responses to questions from The Intercept

Good morning,

Following review and revision by Building 1, we'd like to send the attached responses back to The Intercept, following their recent Gain of Function inquiry. Would you please review these and provide any final comments? I would like to submit these answers for clearance by early afternoon today.

As an FYI, since there has been some confusion over what the reporter meant by "the case of the novel coronaviruses replicating at 100s of times the rate compared to the original virus," I have attached a recent email she also sent to Dr. Fauci, which may give some context.

Best,

Elizabeth Deatrick

Technical Writer-Editor

Office of Communications and Government Relations

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

b6

Please note that I am not a spokesperson for NIAID and should not be quoted as such.

Date: Thu, 6 May 2021 9:45:52 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 6 May 2021 9:42:52 AM -0400
Subject: RE: McCarthyism looming - Bipartisan bill re. competition with China includes language on WIV and our work
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

Yes – the conspiracists are circulating it ad infintum on the web.

We need other scientists to speak up. I'm getting vilified for research that helps prevent pandemics, and people like Ebright and Relman are publicly calling to defund our programs. My problem is that I can argue back on every single point raised, and point out the flaws, but I've been attacked so repeatedly that my opinion is considered flawed or biased.

Apparently a well-known Nobel Laureate is quoted in the article supporting a lab origin now – David Baltimore.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: RE: McCarthyism looming - Bipartisan bill re. competition with China includes language on WIV and our work

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 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email b6

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Mon, 7 Mar 2022 2:20:54 AM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 7 Mar 2022 2:20:37 AM -0500
Subject:	Re: Music from my relatives in Ukraine
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
To:	Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC:	Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6];
Attachments:	Ukraine appeal - 181.pdf

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: [b6]
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype [b6]
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Mar 6, 2022, at 9:44 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6] > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Peter:

Your brother is a very talented violinist! Thanks for sharing. The current situation is heartbreaking and I think we all wish that more could be done to help.

In case you were not aware, Roald Hoffmann and I have organized a Nobel Laureates appeal for peace in Ukraine. The appeal is attached and the current list of signees (currently 181) can be found at https://nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html Please circulate as you see fit, but especially to scientists in Russia, Ukraine and China.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Sunday, March 6, 2022 9:03 PM
To: David Morens [b6] >
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Music from my relatives in Ukraine

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, who was Ukrainian, was conscripted by the Nazis when they invaded Ukraine early in WW2. He managed to escape, cross the frontline and hand himself over to the British, came to the UK as a prisoner of war, and eventually became a UK citizen and married by mom, who was English. My dad was very musical – taught me classical guitar, spoke 7 languages, played many instruments and sang in a Ukrainian choir in the UK. My younger brother became an opera singer and my dad's brother who stayed in Ukraine became a leading viola player and head of the Lviv Conservatory. We still have a lot of relatives in Ukraine, almost all of whom are professional musicians – my cousins are conductors, composers, opera singers. Their children are concert pianists, viola players, singers. Sadly, as of last week, they are now refugees and soldiers.

Here is my nephew [b6], playing viola on these two youtube clips. He took up a rifle in 2014 during the Russian incursion in the East, then returned to performing. Last week he volunteered again, and is now fighting on the frontline North of Kyiv again – he was alive as of yesterday.
Here he is playing Bach [b6]
And a really technical piece "Gypsy Airs" by Sarasate: [b6]

Here is his sister, my niece [b6] playing piano. She managed to get out on Day 1 of the invasion, escape over to Hungary and is now safely in Sweden with my brother's family: [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005687
MORENS_NIH_014025
REL0000480071

I also wanted to share this beautiful piece of Ukrainian music. It's called "Chuyesh Brati myi" or "Listen, my brother". I first heard this when we buried my father in Manchester and the remaining members of the choir he conducted at the time gathered around his graveside as we lowered him in and sang this in their classical Ukrainian voices. The song famously speaks of the cranes flying high in the sky as they return from their migration to their homeland near the Dniepr River. You can hear the choir singing the sound of the cranes "Cru, Cru, Cru!". The words say "Listen my brother to the sound of the cranes, Cru, Cru, Cru, as they return to their homeland. Myself, I shall die in this foreign land, never to see my homeland again"….
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRAUrKtu7ZM

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. They're in the West of Ukraine and safe for now, but won't evacuate despite what looks clearly like a repetition of a Syria or Grozny type of annihilation, even my neice who has [b6] – we're trying to persuade them to get out every day…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoIHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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 [b6] > 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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Holly Irving [E] b6
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 [b6] 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

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 g >
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: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

-----Original Message-----
From: b6 [mailto:b6 >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Bloom, Barry R. b6 >; Michael Imperiale b6 Silja Vöneky <b6
mooc demi b6 ; Nick Evans b6 ; Michael Osterholm b6 >; Lone Simonsen b6 >; Edward Hammond <b6 >; David N. Fisman b6 >; Arturo Casadevall <b6 >; Amir Attaran b6 ; Alison Galvani b6 >; Roberts,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005692
MORENS_NIH_014030
REL0000480071

Rich [b6]>; Peter Hale [b6]
Lipsitch, Marc [b6]>; David Relman
[b6] Richard H. Ebright
Cc: Laura H. Kahn [b6]
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 [b6] or to me at [b6] with your name and current affiliation.

Thank you in advance.

RHE

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005693
MORENS_NIH_014031
REL0000480071

Date: Fri, 28 May 2021 6:37:33 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 28 May 2021 6:33:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 keusch, Jerry b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png

Sounds like good news to me. On a cynical note, I suspect HHS is doing this because they feel that Tony Fauci & Francis Collins are under pressure, and they don't want more mud to be slung around, even if it's mis-quoted, out-of-context garbage from our grants etc.

Frankly, I think it was prob a mistake to allow anything of EHAs to be FoIA'd in the first place, given that these conspiracy folks are just pulling things completely out of context and feeding them to people like Rand Paul and other nut-jobs. Again, it's a case of HHS, NIH not stepping up in anyway at all to defend an organization they fund that was already under attack thanks to their actions.

The US Right to Know chief was bragging on Twitter last week that they'd filed 70!! FoIA requests related to Wuhan, EcoHealth, NIH etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel. b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; keusch, Jerry b6 Roberts, Ric b6
Subject: Fwd: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology

From our FOIA office. Not clear what it means.....d

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015820
MORENS_NIH_033522
REL0000480076

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology
Date: Fri, 28 May 2021 18:52:24 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
To: David Morens b6

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
- b6 Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- b6

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 10:39 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology
Importance: High

From: Moore, Marg (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 10:38 AM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology
Importance: High

FYI

From: Lampe, Karen (NIH/OD) [E b6
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 10:33 AM
To: NIH FOIA b6; Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E] b6 chofield, Robin (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 v>; Moore, Marg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6; Milliard, Suzanne (NIH/NCI) [E] b6; Peterson, Trevor (NIH/NEI) [E] b6; Blansfield, Earl (NIH/NICHD) [E] b6; Webb, Ginger (NIH/NIDCD) [E] b6; Stabile, Regina (NIH/NIEHS) [E] b6; Alberts, Lisa (NIH/NIMH) [E] b6 Glasford-Clarke, Margaret (NIH/OD) [E] b6 Woodson, Holly (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] b6; Thomas, Gina (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Cc: Garcia-Malene, Gorka (NIH/OD) [E] b6; Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6; Yan, Hawyee (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Subject: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology
Importance: High

Good morning all,

We have just received word from HHS Oversight via OGC that we should not release anything having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/WIV. We don't have any more information at the moment but hope to know more by Tuesday. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Karen E. R. Lampe, Ph.D.
Freedom of Information Office
National Institutes of Health
b6



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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015822
MORENS_NIH_033524
REL0000480076

Date: Thu, 19 May 2022 4:22:17 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 19 May 2022 4:22:12 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

There seems to be some credibility gaps for people with PhD's in economics who meddle in science.

And David, don't be so negative about the Albanian Sewer Cleaning Institute because they have been doing a bang-up high quality job monitoring CoV-2 in the effluents.

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: Re: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

Where did he get his PhD? University of Phoenix? Or the Albanian Sewer Cleaning Institute? d

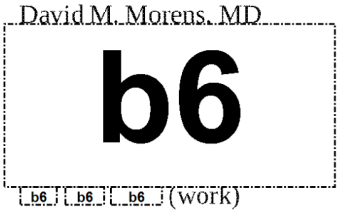
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 19, 2022, at 15:19, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:
>
> Can't believe Navarro's still banging on about it.
>
> He's a particularly nefarious character, but we have to remember that although he has a Ph.D, it's in economics, not virology or ecology, so he really hasn't got a clue when it comes to how a virus emerges....
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> President
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: [b6]
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Fwd: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

David M. Morens, MD



[b6] [b6] [b6] (work)
[b6] [b6] [b6] (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Date: Thu, May 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Subject: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
To: David Morens [b6]

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:19 PM
Subject: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

Skip to main content

FactCheck.org® A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center

Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin

By Jessica McDonald

Posted on May 19, 2022

SciCheck Digest

The U.S. indirectly funded some bat coronavirus research at a lab in Wuhan, China. But those experiments could not have led to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, because the viruses used were very different. Yet former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro repeated a false claim that Dr. Anthony Fauci "killed a lot of people" by funding the lab.

Full Story

It's not known how SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, originated. But many scientists suspect the virus "spilled over" into humans from an animal. There is no evidence the virus was created in a lab, let alone as part of any U.S.-funded research.

For over a year, politicians and others have misleadingly cited certain grants awarded to a group collaborating with a lab in Wuhan to incorrectly suggest that National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there is a debate about whether some of the research should have been funded or performed, the experiments did not produce SARS-CoV-2, as the National Institutes of Health and others have explained.

The latest iteration of these claims comes from Peter Navarro, former President Donald Trump's trade adviser, who in a May 16 interview with the conservative outlet Newsmax blamed Fauci for the pandemic and called for his imprisonment.

Navarro began by responding to a clip of Fauci telling CNN on May 15 that he would not serve under Trump if the former president were elected in 2024.

"Tony, you're fired, dude. There's no way you're ever getting back into the Trump White House," Navarro said, adding that as soon as Republicans take back the House, Fauci would sit in Congress and "confess to creating the virus that's killed almost a million Americans now."

"We're going to fit you for an orange jumpsuit, Tony, you can count on that," he continued. "So don't be smug on CNN, dude, okay. You're fired. And if that's the only thing that happens to you, Tony, you'll be lucky because you killed a lot of people by funding this Wuhan lab. You got in bed with the Chinese Communist Party, you lied to the American people."

Fauci, who has been head of NIAID since 1984 and is one of the most distinguished living scientists, has served under seven presidents, including three Democrats and four Republicans. At age 81, Fauci has said he is thinking of retirement, but has no immediate plans to depart and would not do so until the country is firmly out of danger from COVID-19's pandemic phase.

Later, Navarro, who has previously misled the public about hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment and shared inaccurate information about COVID-19 vaccines, baselessly stated as fact that the pandemic began at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"This is where the virus started," he said, pointing to an image of the facility. "This was funded by Tony Fauci. Gain-of-function research is what he went behind the back of Donald Trump and the White House to get going

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009555
MORENS_NIH_020065
REL0000480078

here in 2017 with the Chinese communists. And now we have a pandemic that's killed almost a million people. I don't know how this guy is still in public office, he really ought to have a jumpsuit."

Newsmax shared its interview with Navarro on Facebook, where it received more than 30,000 views in two days.

Fauci Has No Connection to Pandemic Virus

Navarro's statements are reminiscent of those from other Republicans, including Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who have at times also falsely insinuated that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology could have led to the creation of SARS-CoV-2.

As we have explained before, NIAID did fund some experiments at WIV as part of a multiyear $3.7 million grant that began in 2014 to the U.S.-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance. The research was aimed at understanding the risk of the future emergence of coronaviruses from bats, and a small portion of the money — $600,000 — went to an EcoHealth collaborator at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

But those experiments, which mixed and matched certain elements of bat coronaviruses, couldn't have produced SARS-CoV-2 because the viruses used were very different.

"Analysis of published genomic data and other documents from the grantee demonstrate that the naturally occurring bat coronaviruses studied under the NIH grant are genetically far distant from SARS-CoV-2 and could not possibly have caused the COVID-19 pandemic," NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said in an Oct. 20, 2021, statement, referring to an analysis posted to the NIAID's website. "Any claims to the contrary are demonstrably false."

As we've written, the NIH analysis shows that the WIV viruses share only about 80% of their genomes with SARS-CoV-2, which is a tremendous difference. Even much more similar viruses — those 96% identical — still differ from SARS-CoV-2 by more than 1,000 nucleotides, and could not have plausibly been the ancestral virus, David Robertson, the head of viral genomics and bioinformatics at the University of Glasgow, told us for a previous story.

There is simply no basis to claim that Fauci, via this NIAID grant, has anything to do with the origin of the coronavirus.

Moreover, there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 came from WIV or any lab, and many experts say the virus almost certainly was not bioengineered. Indeed, despite continued speculation, largely because of the proximity of certain research institutions to the city of Wuhan, where the first COVID-19 cases were identified, there is no credible evidence of a lab leak.

In contrast, while there is still no proof, multiple lines of evidence, including geolocation and genetic analyses, suggest the pandemic began with a natural spillover at the Huanan market, which sold a variety of live animals for human consumption.

Much of the debate about the WIV experiments has focused on whether they were so-called gain-of-function experiments and whether NIH should have funded them. Paul has an ongoing feud with Fauci over this issue, and each man has accused the other of lying.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009556
MORENS_NIH_020066
REL0000480078

Fauci has said the experiments do not count as gain-of-function, which the agency defines in a specific way and refers to research involving "enhanced pathogens of pandemic potential," or ePPPs. Paul has insisted they do.

In February, the NIH said it had ordered a review of its ePPP policies, which have been controversial.

Regardless of whether certain potentially risky research should be funded or not, it's inaccurate for Navarro to claim Fauci had a role in starting the pandemic.

Editor's note: SciCheck's COVID-19/Vaccination Project is made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The foundation has no control over FactCheck.org's editorial decisions, and the views expressed in our articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the foundation. The goal of the project is to increase exposure to accurate information about COVID-19 and vaccines, while decreasing the impact of misinformation.

Sources

McDonald, Jessica. "The Facts – and Gaps – on the Origin of the Coronavirus." FactCheck.org. 25 Jun 2021.

Holmes, Edward C. et al. "The origins of SARS-CoV-2: A critical review." Cell. 18 Aug 2021.

Robertson, Lori. "The Wuhan Lab and the Gain-of-Function Disagreement." FactCheck.org. 21 May 2021.

McDonald, Jessica. "Republicans Spin NIH Letter About Coronavirus Gain-of-Function Research." FactCheck.org. 26 Oct 2021.

Collins, Francis S. "Statement on Misinformation about SARS-CoV-2 Origins." 20 Oct 2021.

Stracqualursi, Veronica. "Fauci says 'no' to serving under Donald Trump should he win a second term." CNN. 16 May 2022.

"Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., NIAID Director." NIAID. Accessed 18 May 2022.

"Anthony S. Fauci, M.D." NIAID. Accessed 18 May 2022.

"'This Week' Transcript 3-20-22: Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. John Barrasso, Marina Ovsyannikova & Dr. Anthony Fauci." ABC News. 20 Mar 2022.

Haslett, Cheyenne. "Fauci says COVID-19 cases will likely increase soon, though not necessarily hospitalizations." ABC News. 18 Mar 2022.

McDonald, Jessica. "Navarro Doesn't Give Full Picture On Hydroxychloroquine." FactCheck.org. 9 Jul 2020.

"Washington Times article by Robert Malone and Peter Navarro relies on inaccurate and unsubstantiated claims about virus evolution, vaccine immunity, and COVID-19 vaccine safety." Health Feedback. 15 Aug 2021.

Robertson, Lori. "Trump Spreads Distorted Claim on Wuhan Lab Funding." FactCheck.org. 15 May 2020.

"SARS-CoV-2 and NIAID-supported Bat Coronavirus Research." NIAID. 20 Oct

2021.

Maxmen, Amy. "Wuhan market was epicentre of pandemic's start, studies suggest." Nature. 27 Feb 2022.

Robertson, Lori and McDonald, Jessica. "Fauci and Paul, Round 2." FactCheck.org. 22 Jul 2021.

"Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens." NIH. Accessed 18 May 2022.

Tabak, Lawrence A. "Statement on charge to the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to review scope and effectiveness of two U.S. Government biosecurity policy frameworks." NIH statement. 28 Feb 2022.

Achenbach, Joel. "NIH orders sweeping review of potentially risky experiments on viruses and other pathogens." Washington Post. 1 Mar 2022.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Wed, 10 Mar 2021 5:37:21 AM -0500
Sent:	Wed, 10 Mar 2021 5:37:01 AM -0500
Subject:	Re: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From:	Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
To:	Peter Daszak b6
CC:	Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Alison Andre <b6 auer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] b6
Attachments:	Daszak 7 8 20.pdf; NIH Response to EcoHealth Response to b6

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
Phone: b6
Email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:02 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >, Alison Andre b6 >
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. Dr. Matthew Fenton 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 Alison Andre, 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 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013788
MORENS_NIH_026027
REL0000480079

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.